

Cancelled flights lead to cancer patient missing appointments

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A series of recently cancelled flights has left a cancer patient unable to access treatment in Cork.

A 79 year old cancer sufferer was due to take the flight to Dublin for highly specialised treatment in a Cork hospital.

She was unable to make the first leg of her journey to Dublin as a result of the cancellation which meant a cancellation of her appointment.

Thomas Pringle TD has called on the Minister for Transport to intervene with the PSO operator Stobart Air at Donegal Airport following the cancellations.

"By the time she was informed of the cancellation it was simply too late to make alternative arrangements. This is very distressing for the family who are now waiting for a rescheduled appointment," said Pringle.

"Last week another Dublin flight was cancelled by Stobart Air because of 'technical problems'. That is the eighth flight cancellation this month," he said.

"I have also learned that there were 23 flight cancellations in December 2015. Stobart Air have informed me that the cancellations have been due to a combination of technical problems and extreme weather."

"Stobart Air have the PSO contract from Carrickfin and what is more annoying about this spate of cancellations is that they operated out of Carrickfin previously with the same type of airplane yet they did not have the same volume of cancellations."

"Stobart Air has informed me they had three cancellations in January due to technical problems. This appears to me an excessive amount of problems that warrants investigation by the Department of Transport," Pringle said.

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