



SPECIAL INVESTIGATION

Safety forum manager Pedro Delgado's 2007-2010 itinerary

<p>Trip 1 2007/8: BOSTON \$8,500 in course fees: Flights and accommodation (4-star Charles Hotel): £2,400</p> <p>Trip 2 PARIS Course fees: £705 Estimated flight and accommodation (4-star Palais des Congres): £750</p> <p>Trips 3,4 and 5 2008/9: BOSTON, three times Total course fees: \$13,500. Estimated flights and accommodation: £3,500 (4-star Charles hotel)</p> <p>Trip 6 SAN DIEGO Estimated course fees, travel and accommodation costs: £1,500</p> <p>Trip 7 November 2008: SWEDEN Course fees: £580 Estimated flights and accommodation: £700 (4-star Clarion hotel)</p>	<p>Trip 8 March 2009: BERLIN Course fees: £800. Estimated flights and accommodation: £700 (4-star Kastania hotel)</p> <p>Trip 9 NASHVILLE Estimated course, travel and accommodation costs: £2,200</p> <p>Trip 10 2009/10: BOSTON Course fees: \$925 Estimated flights and accommodation (Lake Morey resort, Vermont): £1,100</p> <p>Trip 11 FLORIDA: Course fees: \$780 Estimated travel and accommodation (Marriott Resort Convention Centre): £1,085</p> <p>■ The above figures exclude the cost of food and drink, mileage and taxi. These are submitted as staff expense claims.</p>
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The NHS boss overseas trips

By Seanin Graham
Health Correspondent



A NORTHERN Ireland health service manager was flown around the world for training courses – making 11 overseas trips in three years at taxpayers' expense.

Pedro Delgado travelled to Paris, Berlin, San Diego, Sweden, Nashville, Florida and to Boston five times to learn about patient safety between 2007 and this year.

Four-star luxury accommodation was provided in both European and US destinations and included the Charles hotel in Boston and the Clarion hotel in Sweden.

The trips were funded by the Health and Social Care Safety Forum, a body launched by the chief medical officer Dr Michael McBride in 2007 to promote a "safety culture".

Venezuelan-born Mr Delgado was the forum's assistant director. A talented footballer, he won an under-21 cap for his country and then played for

Linfield, Carrick and Dungannon Swifts.

He now works in the US as director for the Institute for Health Improvement (IHI).

It hosted many of the international courses he attended while working for Northern Ireland's health service.

The revelation comes as part of a wider Irish News investigation into the cost of overseas training courses and conferences for senior staff in the health service.

It emerged that a total of 50 managers have been flown around the world over the past three years at a cost of \$350,000 to taxpayers.

Many of the trips continue despite a strongly-worded directive from the Department of Health last year which warned NHS staff to curtail such spending.

Health chiefs have defended the trips, saying they "save lives". However, health minister Michael McGimpsey – who initially dismissed the revelations as a "non-story" – performed a dramatic U-turn last month, saying he would be seeking "personal assurances" from chief executives organising future foreign travel.

Despite making repeated re-

"My efforts and passion were always focused on making a difference for patients as a way of paying back the incredible opportunities I was afforded"

Pedro Delgado, pictured

quests, *The Irish News* has been unable to obtain the invoices and costs for Mr Delgado's travel and subsistence

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