Guidance for Placements on the Isle of Wight

Travel

There are several options depending on whether your placement is in Newport or Shanklin.

1. Travel by the fast ferry and use public transport which is possible for Newport placements. Red Funnel will not invoice Taunton and Somerset directly however. The cheapest option is to purchase a book of tickets (it is possible to get an NHS discount) which may take a while to arrange unless you pay up front perhaps with a credit card and reclaim on your expenses sheet – Alan Taylor will accept a expenses claim solely for this so if you claim at the beginning of the month and get it signed off immediately. It can be reimbursed with your salary at the end of the month subject to it being received by him before the middle of the month.
2. If the ferry company will accept a cheque (apparently Red Funnel do accept this) then Alan can raise a cheque which is paid directly into their account.  You would need to contact them to confirm this and to organise this in advance so that the tickets are then available for the time of travel.
3. Bring your car over and stay for 2 nights. This will probably be the only option for you if your placement is in Shanklin as a daily commute is very long. Many trainees also find this works better for the Newport placements. However a daily commute is very possible especially if the ferry terminal is accessible from home. There are a number of hotels who will invoice Taunton &Somerset directly for the ferry tickets and so you don’t have to pay anything up front which is very helpful. Previous trainees have particularly recommended Castle Lodge in Newport and Luccombe Hall Hotel in Shanklin and they both will invoice directly and include the ferry tickets in this.
4. Renting a car may be an option if a car is required on the placement. For example it can be possible to rent a car, park in Southampton and use the car ferry for not much more than accommodation and bringing your own car over.
5. It is possible to leave your care at Ikea in Southampton overnight at then use public transport if your placement is accessible. There is also some parking at the ferry terminal in Southampton if going by foot ferry is the best option.

Taunton &Somerset will fund alternatives routes if they do not cost significantly more than they pay normally for placements.

Accommodation

T& S will pay up to £55 per night for accommodation and hotels will usually invoice them directly. There may be some other options especially in the winter if you do some research. However the advantage of a hotel is that they can provide ferry tickets and add this to the invoice for Taunton & Somerset. We can recommend options that previous trainees have tried but you can also do your own research. One issue to be aware of is that you will need to book leave in advance with the hotel. It is important that you are aware that if you take annual leave with short notice and the hotel charge you regardless because of lack of notice then you will have to absorb the cost of this.

You have a subsistence allowance of £10 for food which you can use for an evening meal. If you are staying for 3 days the allowance is available only on the days when you are staying overnight ie. on the first and second day. You are expected to provide your own meal on the day you return home. They don’t expect to cover all of your expenses as the assumption is that you are responsible for your own food etc on a mainland placement. The idea is to cover expenses above what you would be paying normally.

Expenses App - The Price is Wight – can be down loaded and provides helpful tips on finding good prices on resources locally.