



Deputy Michael McGrath  
Dail Eireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**Cork University Maternity Hospital**  
**Wilton**  
**Cork**  
**T12 YE02**  
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**PQ – 1846/19**

**To ask the Minister for Health his views on the request for a capital budget of €7.5 million in 2019 for the maternity directorate in the South South West hospital group to enable the second operating theatre to open at Cork University Maternity Hospital and deal with other service improvements; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Michael McGrath**

Dear Deputy McGrath,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position:

In March 2017 CUMH and South/South West Hospital Group Management Team met with Minister Simon Harris. The Minister signed off on the CUMH Gynaecology Business Case, this was a multi-annual plan to tackle the Gynaecology Waiting List and invest in a sustainable Gynaecology Service for the women in the SSWHG region.

The three-year Business Case represented a phased structured approach with revenue and capital requirements totalling €6.5m and €7.5m respectively over the three-year duration of the plan. By the end of 2018 the revenue costs were to have reached €2.7m.

Based on the allocation for 2018 from the National Women and Infants Health Programme (NWIHP) the funding for Obstetrics & Gynaecology development amounted to €265,000 for specified additional posts, of which approximately €195,000 was for Gynaecology posts.

CUMH also got an additional €400,000 allocation for benign Gynaecology initiatives.

Based on the above allocation CUMH was not in a position to open the second Gynaecology Theatre in 2018.

**CUMH committed to Minister Harris that it would continue to endeavour to reduce its waiting lists. In 2018 the plan that CUMH committed to was as follows:**



***Women, babies and their families are the centre of our service as we strive for excellence and innovation.***

### **Gynaecology Theatre Inpatient Waiting List:**

- With the support of the South /South West Hospital Group and the NTPF the CUMH rented Theatre space in the Mater Private Hospital Cork. CUMH consultants operated on 87 'long waiters' from the waiting list at these sessions.

### **Gynaecology Outpatient Waiting List – plan to eliminate 'long waiters' by April 2019 with the following initiatives - approx. 3000 patients to be reviewed:**

- Many of the Consultant Gynaecologists at CUMH commenced additional Gynaecology Outpatient Clinics out of hours.
- We commenced a weekly Outreach Outpatients Clinic in Mallow Primary Health Centre in November 2018 in conjunction with the GPs in the clinic
- We increased the number of 'new' patients seen at all clinics
- Additional daily Gynaecology Clinics were set up from July 2018
- On the week commencing the 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019 CUMH planned a comprehensive drive to see an additional 500 outpatients at out of hour clinics

Therefore, with great staff cooperation, CUMH continued to work on reducing the outpatient waiting list throughout 2018 with a focused plan to eliminate long waiters by April 2019.

When the funding, signed off by Minister Harris in the Gynaecology Business Case, is allocated, it will allow us to open the second theatre which has been lying idle since the CUMH opened in 2007

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



John R. Higgins

***Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology  
Clinical Director Maternity Directorate  
South/Southwest Hospital Group***