



**Galway  
University  
Hospitals**

*Ospidéal na h-Ollscoile Gaillimh*  
UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL GALWAY  
MERLIN PARK UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

**General Manager's Office  
University Hospital Galway  
Newcastle Road  
Galway  
Tel: (091) 544200**

26<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**PQ 33863/19 To ask the Minister for Health his plans to ensure the bariatric care team at University Hospital Galway have protected theatre slots at the hospital to ensure that their surgeries proceed and that the waiting lists are reduced -Louise O'Reilly**

Dear Deputy O'Reilly

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply to you directly in the context of the request for information referenced above, the following outlines the situation.

Galway University Hospitals has committed to identifying a protected theatre slot for bariatric surgery, this is one of a number of commitments in terms of theatre access that the organisation is working to deliver.

A process of recruiting theatre staff has been ongoing.

As an interim measure, GUH have been working with colleagues in the private sector to access theatre slots for bariatric surgeries.

A small number of cases have been carried out over the past few months by our Consultant General Surgeon.

I trust this clarifies the matter,

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Chris Kane  
General Manager  
Galway University Hospitals