

Health Service Executive
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Private & Confidential

27th June, 2019

Minister Brendan Griffin,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare St, Dublin 2

PQ Number: 26240/18

Dear Minister Griffin,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) – South (Cork & Kerry) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to this office for response.

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health if measures will be put in place to prevent the increase of instances of mixed gender wards in University Hospital Kerry in breach of hospital policy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Brendan Griffin

UHK strives to maintain patient dignity and respect in all instances in the hospital including the provision of gender specific rooms/wards. While every effort is made to ensure this happens consistently, due to the pressure on beds from the Emergency Department there are occasions where, in the interests of patient safety, patients are placed in a mixed gender room. If it happens, it is for the shortest period possible.

UHK has made submissions for additional bed capacity and this is currently under consideration. Any increase in bed capacity would obviously decrease the frequency of mixed gender room/wards.

I trust this response is to your satisfaction; should you have any further queries however, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Fearghal Grimes
General Manager
University Hospital Kerry