

CC/JOS /MMcM

Email: pqmidwestacute@hse.ie10th July 2019Ms Jan O'Sullivan TD
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 27315/19

***To ask the Minister for Health the status of the planning and progress in relation to the proposed 60 bed modular unit at University Hospital Limerick, Dooradoyle, County Limerick; his plans to recruit staff for the unit; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Jan O'Sullivan**

Dear Deputy O'Sullivan

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.

The first phase of the project consists of an enabling works contract to prepare the site for the new building. These works commenced in March 2019.

The funding for the second phase (design and build) has been. It is anticipated that the design of the main works will commence in late May 2019 once contracts are signed and an agreed state date is in place. It is anticipated that the design and build phase will take 15 months to complete.

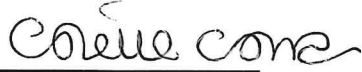
Once the building is handed over by the contractor, the equipping/commissioning of the unit should take a further two months to complete before the 60-bed block is ready to start admitting patients.

The total capital cost of this project is estimated to be c €19.5 million. This is a significant project for the Midwest region that will begin to address the acknowledged shortfall in bed capacity and UL Hospitals Group will make every effort to ensure the project is delivered as soon as possible.

As part of the 60 Bed Block, a working group comprising of all relevant stakeholders including trade union representatives has been set up to look specifically at recruitment of staff. The group have met and agreed their terms of reference, they will continue to meet regularly over the life of the project. Part of their work includes developing a recruitment plan for the staff required for the new build. They will be progressing these plans over the coming months with a view to having new staff in place when the new block opens.

I trust this clarifies the position, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,



Colette Cowan
Chief Executive Officer
UL Hospitals Group