



General Manager's Office
University Hospital Waterford,
Kilcreene Regional Orthopaedic Hospital, Kilkenny
South/South West Hospital Group
Email: uhwpg@hse.ie

22nd May 2019

Mr John McGuinness TD
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 20908/19 - To ask the Minister for Health his plans for the future of Kilcreene Hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy McGuinness

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.

Kilcreene Regional Orthopaedic Hospital is the elective Orthopaedic Hospital for the South East covering the counties of Carlow/Kilkenny, Waterford, Wexford and South Tipperary. Following the reconfiguration of hospitals into hospital groups, KROH is now part of the South/South West Hospital group. From 1st January 2014 the management and governance of Kilcreene Regional Orthopaedic Hospital (KROH) transferred from St Luke's General Hospital Kilkenny (SLHK) to University Hospital Waterford (UHW).

The former South Eastern Health Board in 1996 adopted a strategy for development of orthopaedic services. This strategy enabled the centralisation of orthopaedic trauma to W.R.H. (now UHW) and was to be followed by the relocation of the regional elective orthopaedic unit also to UHW as a second phase. This second phase never occurred and the regional elective orthopaedic unit has remained in Kilcreene ever since. University Hospital Waterford (UHW) is a large teaching hospital with academic links to University College Cork. The hospital is part of the South / South West Hospital Group and is a Model 4 hospital. The hospital is governed by its Executive Management Board, which is representative of the organisation's clinical and corporate functions to support the delivery of safe, effective, high-quality patient care.

UHW provides regional surgical and medical services to the HSE South East area, population 497,578 as per CSO census 2011 and covers the counties Waterford, South Tipperary, Wexford, Carlow and Kilkenny.

UHW in conjunction with Kilcreene Regional Orthopaedic Hospital (KROH) Kilkenny, currently provides the regional Orthopaedic Service for elective and trauma care.

Long term plans for KROH – Orthopaedic services will continue at KROH until a facility is available in Waterford

A Business case has been submitted to build an elective unit for Orthopaedics on the grounds of UHW, to rationalize the service delivery for regional Orthopaedic services. This will be achieved by relocating current elective Orthopaedic surgery from Kilcreene Regional Orthopaedic Hospital (KROH) to a location on site at UHW. Service delivery for this regional specialty for all elective Orthopaedic surgery and trauma Orthopaedic surgery will be managed from one site, namely UHW.

The main drivers to relocate the Orthopaedic service include:

- To ensure patients have 24 hr on site access to medical and anaesthetic cover and to critical care beds if and when required.
- To replace the existing facilities at KROH that is not compliant with HIQA and building standards.
- To reduce any potential clinical risk and incident occurrences.

BENEFITS OF RELOCATION AND ELECTIVE ORTHOPAEDIC BUILD AT UHW

- Improved quality and continuity of care through development and implementation of standardized orthopaedic care pathways.
- Better patient safety: by removing variances in processes, risks are reduced.
- Patients will have surgery in built , fit for purpose, operating theatres at an acute hospital facility with access to all on-site services including critical care.
- Access to on site medical and anaesthetic cover 24/7.
- Enable optimisation of pre-operative, peri-operative and post operative process to improve quality of service.
- Risk and incident reduction due to improved care pathways.
- Improved patient experience and satisfaction.
- Allied Health Professionals support on site will lead to improved patient outcomes and improve patient care pathway.
- Major Orthopaedic elective patients will have improved access to all other ancillary services on site at UHW.
- Planned orthopaedic surgery is most safely carried out in hospitals where consultant support from other medical and surgical disciplines is readily available.

SERVICE

- Improved management and governance of the regional Orthopaedic service at one site leading to overall efficiency and effectiveness.
- Improve workflow and waiting list management at one site
- By separating elective scheduled surgery from unscheduled into a purpose built unit, elective surgery will be protected from cancellations associated with emergency workload.

PEOPLE

- Improved EWTD compliance and roster efficiencies on a single site location.
- Improved skill mix between elective and trauma surgery.
- Savings in Consultant and NCHD travel time.

FINANCE

- Reduces duplication: equipment in two sites will reduce costs.
- Reduces travel and transport costs between two sites.
- Reduces requirement for use of agency and locum to cover NCHDS for 24 hour roster in KROH

I trust the above is satisfactory but if you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Grace Rothwell
General Manager
University Hospital Waterford
Kilcreene Regional Orthopaedic Hospital