



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Lacken
Dublin Road
Kilkenny

Telephone 353 56 7784100

18th October 2019

Mr. John Deasy TD
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 40635/19

To ask the Minister for Health if his Department has received an indicative budget for the specific staffing and operational costs associated with the full-time utilisation of the new south east palliative care unit at University Hospital Waterford; the provision that has been or will be made to meet the funding requirement by the HSE; and when the necessary allocation will be forthcoming to allow recruitment of staff to take place.

PQ 40633/19

To ask the Minister for Health when the new 20-bed south east palliative care unit at University Hospital Waterford will be fully commissioned and operational; the reason for the delay in opening the facility to patients in view of the fact that it was officially handed over to the HSE almost six months ago; and if the delay in opening the unit has been caused by cost overruns associated with the national children's hospital project.

PQ 40636/19

To ask the Minister for Health the reason the recruitment requirement for the new south east palliative care unit was not advertised in parallel with the Dunmore wing construction project at University Hospital Waterford in view of the complexities involved in securing appropriately qualified staff.

PQ 40634/19

To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the considerable financial contribution made towards the new south east palliative care unit at University Hospital Waterford by the Waterford Hospice Movement Ltd. through public fundraising over the past three decades; and if his attention has been further drawn to the disappointment expressed by its directors at the failure to open this facility to date and their expectation that it may not be operational until mid-2020.

Dear Deputy Deasy,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions which were submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

I have examined the matter and the following response outlines the composite position.

The South East Palliative Care Centre has been built (€31.26 million total approved cost) as part of the overall five story "Dunmore Wing" integrated project on the grounds of University Hospital Waterford (UHW). The South East Palliative Care Centre will be the first inpatient and day service specialist palliative care unit for the region covering the counties of Carlow, Kilkenny, South Tipperary, Waterford and Wexford. The upper ground floor of the five storey building at UHW will feature a centre for day services in palliative medicine. When fully operational, there will also be 20 inpatient bedrooms (with individual patio gardens) on the lower ground floor for clients requiring the expertise of a specialist palliative care multidisciplinary team. The Centre will be the hub for palliative care in the South East and will build on the existing Consultant led integrated model of care in place across acute hospitals and community healthcare.

Staff based at the Centre will support the Community Specialist Palliative Care Teams and Primary Care Teams across counties Carlow, Kilkenny, South Tipperary, Waterford and Wexford in providing appropriate care pathways for palliative clients in their own home or in nursing homes and community nursing units. A phased opening is anticipated later this year of the South East Palliative Care Centre, as the existing Consultant led palliative team will commence operating from it.

Although palliative care encompasses an integrated approach, the specialist South East Palliative Care Centre is a separate entity to University Hospital Waterford. A joint proposal from South East Community Healthcare's Primary Care services and University Hospital Waterford for staffing and operational costs of the unit was prepared and submitted to the HSE.

At this time Primary Care Services in South East Community Healthcare are awaiting confirmation of the budget allocation. On 2nd October 2019, at a meeting with the Minister for Health, Waterford Members of the Oireachtas, along with representatives from South/South West Hospital Group and South East Community Healthcare, it was advised that it is expected that funding will be allocated to support the opening of the Unit in early 2020.

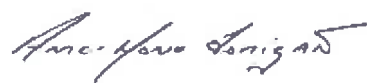
HSE Estates have confirmed that the commissioning process of the building is now complete.

In addition and in accordance with national recruitment policy, all the relevant paperwork to support the commencement of the recruitment process to facilitate opening of the South East Palliative Care Centre has been completed.

South East Community Healthcare on behalf of the HSE are acutely aware and acknowledge the significant fundraising undertaken by the Waterford Hospice Movement. It is anticipated that the HSE and Waterford Hospice Movement will continue working in close partnership with the aim of ensuring the ongoing success of the South East Palliative Care Centre.

Should you have any further queries in relation to same, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Ms. Anna Marie Lanigan
Head of Service-Primary Care
South East Community Healthcare