

CC/JC/MMCM

Email: pgmidwestacute@hse.ie

05th August 2020

Mr Joe Carey TD,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 17944/20

*** To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to a proposal to develop a new urgent care centre at University Hospital Limerick; if the necessary resources will be provided to advance the plan which will assist in dealing with chronic overcrowding at the hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Joe Carey**

Dear Deputy Carey,

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.

A Mid-West Integrated Care Steering Group comprising staff from HSE MidWest Community Healthcare, UL Hospitals Group, National Ambulance Service and the Department of Public Health MidWest has developed a draft plan for an integrated model of care for the MidWest region in line with the broader aims of the Slaintecare programme.

The draft plan will address short to medium term measures around hospital avoidance, improved inpatient discharges, supported outreach services to GPs and accelerated changes to support chronic disease management with a focus on older persons, enabling improved flow between community and acute settings. The Steering Group is simultaneously planning for the longer-term strategic vision for the Mid-West with considerable emphasis being placed on keeping people in their own home wherever possible as long as it is safe to do so, intermediate care access facilitated by integrated care pathways. All of the above is being considered in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and the lessons from same.

The development of an urgent care centre is one of the recommendations arising from the work of this Steering Group which is under consideration by UL Hospitals Group, HSE MidWest Community Healthcare, the Department of Public Health MidWest and the National Ambulance Service.





Working together, caring for you

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I trust this clarifies the position. Please contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,

Colette Cowan
Chief Executive Officer
UL Hospitals Group



University Hospital Limerick is a member of **UL Hospitals Group** which also comprises; Nenagh Hospital, Ennis Hospital, Croom Orthopaedic Hospital, University Maternity Hospital Limerick and St. John's Hospital (voluntary).