

CC/CC/MMcM

Email: pqmidwestacute@hse.ie

08th July 2020

Mr Cathal Crowe TD
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 13174/19

***To ask the Minister for Health the length of time he plans to operate a temporary field hospital in the university area gymnasium at University of Limerick; if the field hospital will now be wound down earlier than initially expected; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Cathal Crowe**

Dear Deputy Crowe,

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.

Patients in the UL Hospitals Group (ULHG) Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) at the University of Limerick (UL) are benefiting from a holistic, multidisciplinary approach to their ongoing rehabilitation when they are transferred to the facility from the group's acute hospitals.

The ICF was opened on June 8th 2020 in the reconfigured main hall of the UL Sport Arena, a fully equipped temporary hospital setting for non Covid-19 or post Covid-19 patients who no longer require acute medical attention, but who can benefit from ongoing rehabilitation and support before final discharge.

The 68-bed ICF, which has capacity to scale up to 84 beds, grew out of the collaborative relationship between UL Hospitals Group and the University of Limerick, and was developed as a contingency solution to the patient flow and crowding challenges experienced in the region's hospitals during the pandemic. It is expected to be in place until at least September 2020 with an option to extend until November 2020. The ICF is laid out in partitioned wards and fitted with ward support accommodation such as clean and dirty utilities, pharmacy, pantry, staff change, clinical treatment areas, two recreation areas, and four enclosed rooms.

Numbers of patients at the ICF have increased steadily, and staffing has grown in line with this increase. As of this week, a total of 50 patients have benefited from rehabilitation at the ICF to date, and there are currently 31 patients being cared for in the facility.





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).