

PQ Rep IEHG
Email: pqrep@iehg.ie

18th March 2020

Deputy Sean Fleming T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2
E: sean.fleming@oireachtas.ie

Re: PQ 2605/20 – Dermatology care, RHM

“To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide a copy of the detailed report listing the consultation that took place as part of the process of an assessment carried out leading to the decision to put in place a new model of dermatology care for the Midland Regional Hospital, Mullingar and the Mater Misericordiae Hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy Fleming,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question seeking an update on the provision of Dermatology services in the Regional Hospital Mullingar, which has been referred to the Ireland East Hospital Group for direct response.

I have had this matter examined and am advised that It is acknowledged that histopathology in the Midlands has traditionally been (and continues to be) managed by the Regional Hospital in Tullamore. The new dermatology initiative between the Mater and Mullingar Hospital – explained below - will not add to the workload of the pathology services in Tullamore.

For many years dermatology in the Midland has been a significant problem, exacerbated last year with the resignation of a previous post holder who provided (18 hours) sessions in Mullingar in a post linked with St James’s Hospital. There is therefore, a significant waiting list of dermatology patients in Mullingar, in addition the Mater has been challenged with high volume waiting list in this speciality.

To address the needs of the Midlands regions The Ireland East Hospital Group (IEHG) negotiated with the Mater Hospital to establish a hub and spoke service by significantly expanding dermatology services in Mullingar. This has been supported by the appointment of three additional dermatology posts all of which were configured to providing a ten-hour commitment each per week to the Regional Hospital in Mullingar resulting in 30-hour consultant led service in Mullingar, an increase of 12 hours.

The overall plan to deliver the service includes the appointment of additional nursing - CNS/NCHD/admin/ and plastics support to ensure development of a comprehensive service across both the Mater and Mullingar Hospital. Future plans will ensure onsite provision of phototherapy and the creating a hub and spoke service.



Mary Day, Chief Executive /
Thomas Lynch, Chairman Tel: 01-9602360

Ireland East Hospital Group
C/O Mater Misericordiae University
Hospital
Eccles Street
Dublin 7
D07 R2WY

This is the first time there has been such a significant focused investment in dermatology services in the Midlands/Mullingar region. No other Model 3 Hospital currently has this amount of dedicated on-site dermatology input.

The creation of the Mater/Mullingar dermatology Hub-and-Spoke service (which has been fully supported by clinical and managerial staff in both hospitals), will create an integrated link within the Group and with the Community.

There has been no dermatology service in Mullingar since February of 2018, and it is only with the approval of the NTPF that this sustainable plan has been put in place for patients.

The commencement of this service will eliminate the waiting list over a period of time, provide a service to the GP's which was absent and provide a link with a model 4 Hospital with appropriate governance and oversight.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely



Paul Gallagher
Chief Director of Nursing and Midwifery