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30th November 2020

Deputy Róisín Shortall
Dáil Éireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ 36682/20: To ask the Minister for Health the status of and position regarding the steps being taken to ensure the delivery of the 2018 Trauma Strategy for all fracture patients; the plans in place to increase the staffing of current fracture liaison services across the country; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Shortall,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question which has been referred by the Minister for Health to the Health Service Executive for direct response.

The Trauma Strategy, A Trauma System for Ireland published in February 2018, takes a whole system approach to addressing all elements of the trauma care pathway, including prevention, pre-hospital care, acute hospital care, rehabilitation and supported discharge.

The strategy recommends the establishment of an inclusive trauma system, where a network of facilities and services co-ordinate the care of injured patients, including fracture patients, along standardised pathways. Implementing the Trauma Strategy as you are aware is a key action of Sláintecare.

A number of key recommendations of the Trauma Strategy have already been implemented and include the appointment of Mr. Keith Synnott, Consultant Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgeon as National Clinical Lead, the setting up of a National Office for Trauma Services and the introduction of further ambulance bypass protocols.

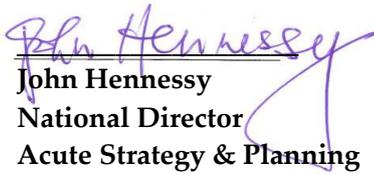
A multi-annual plan to implement the remaining recommendations of the Trauma Strategy has been developed. The plan includes developing the Major Trauma Centres and the Trauma Units, and the completion of further bypass protocols for the care of patients with traumatic injury.

Additional resourcing of €6m has been provided in 2021 to advance a number of the Strategy developments, and which will improve services for fracture patients. These include the phased development of the Major Trauma Centre for the Central Trauma Network, the development of the planned trauma service in Cork University Hospital, additional trauma beds in Tallaght University Hospital and trauma step down beds in the South Infirmary Victoria University Hospital, Cork. These form part of the multi-annual development of trauma services and the implementation of the Model of

Care for Trauma and Orthopaedic surgery, including the development of fracture liaison services in due course.

I trust the above information is of assistance to you, however, should you require any further details please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,


John Hennessy
National Director
Acute Strategy & Planning