

26th November 2020

Deputy Róisín Shortall T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2
E: roisin.shortall@oireachtas.ie

Re: PQ 39176/20 – Mental health treatment, St. Vincent's University Hospital

“To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to reports that patients requiring mental health treatment in St. Vincent's University Hospital, Dublin, are being asked to wait outside the hospital with no shelter; if he has engaged with the hospital on this issue; the steps his Department is taking to address this practice; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy Shortall,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question seeking an update on mental health treatment in St. Vincent's University Hospital, which has been referred to the Ireland East Hospital Group for direct response.

I have had this matter examined and am advised that as a protective measure against covid-19 St Vincent's University Hospital has implemented guidelines for all patients attending the hospital. The measures are designed to prevent numbers of patients gathering in waiting rooms or communal spaces while waiting to be seen. The guidelines, which are published on the hospitals website state that:

- Waiting is not permitted inside the hospital so please arrive at your scheduled appointment time.
- If you do arrive early, please wait in your car or outside the hospital buildings
- Ensure you adhere to social distancing guidelines and follow hospital signage
- Please wear face coverings at all times while you are inside the hospital.

Yours sincerely



Paul Gallagher
Chief Director of Nursing and Midwifery

