



Eigfhianannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive



Cork University Hospital
Cork University Hospital

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Date: 2nd October 2020

PQ – 22048/20

Deputy Mick Barry
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

“To ask the Minister for Health if he will consider extending the clinic hours and range of services to facilitate greater access to appointments for those in work in relation to the HIV clinic at Cork University Hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter”

Dear Deputy Barry

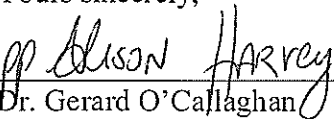
The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Cork University Hospital provides HIV care to between 600 and 700 patients currently. Patients need to attend at least every 6 months, but more frequent follow ups are required for those with complex medical or social needs, including those recently diagnosed or those with complications of their HIV. We provide a multidisciplinary service with medical, nursing, and pharmacy care delivered on-site in the clinic. We generally have very good outcome figures with the vast majority of our patients remaining healthy with an undetectable viral level in their blood due to effective antiviral therapy.

Currently Cork University Hospital provides HIV care in the General Outpatients Department. A small clinical suite has also been opened in the hospital to provide ad hoc clinical reviews. Extending the HIV clinic OPD hours to facilitate those at work would require substantial staff costs and possibly capital investment in dedicated premises.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,


Dr. Gerard O'Callaghan
Interim Chief Executive Officer