

CC/JC/MMCM

Email: [pgmidwestacute@hse.ie](mailto:pgmidwestacute@hse.ie)

08<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Mr Joe Carey TD,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 26183/20

**\* To ask the Minister for Health if he will report on progress to increase acute bed capacity at University Hospital Limerick; when the 60-bed modular unit and the planned 96 bed ward block will become operational; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Joe Carey**

Dear Deputy Carey,

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.

A new 60 Bed ward block project was established to provide a rapid build interim solution to begin to address the bed capacity issue at UHL in response to the National Capacity Review by the Department of Health.

The €19.5m four-storey ward block will provide an additional 60 beds for the hospital, all single patient rooms with ensembles. The additional single rooms will help to improve patient comfort, safety, privacy and dignity and assist with the management of infection control in the hospital.

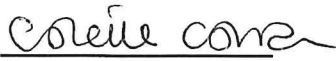
It is anticipated that the new beds will be operational by Q4 2020. This is in line with the HSE National Service Plan 2020.

The planning permission application for the 96 Bed Ward Block at UHL was submitted to the local authority in early August 2020 following a comprehensive feasibility study to develop a scheme best suited to the available footprint. While it is hoped that a grant of planning permission will be achieved in the coming months, the statutory approval process timeframe is largely out of our control. Provision of funding for design work has been provided in the HSE Capital Plan in 2021 to allow the detailed design stage of the project to be progressed. The funding allocation in the following years will be subject to capital funding availability for the works within the future Health Capital vote at national level and a definitive operational date cannot be given at this stage.



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**