

**20th December 2021**

Deputy Jennifer Whitmore T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2  
E: [jennifer.whitmore@oireachtas.ie](mailto:jennifer.whitmore@oireachtas.ie)

**Re: PQ 60882/21 – NGS, St Columcille's Hospital**

**“To ask the Minister for Health the amount of funding provided for the National Gender Service in Budget 2022; the way he plans to expand the service to meet demand; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”**

Dear Deputy Whitmore,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question seeking an update on the National Gender Service in St Columcille's Hospital, which has been referred to the Ireland East Hospital Group for direct response.

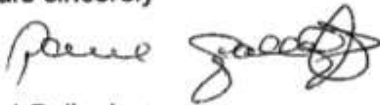
I have had this matter examined and am advised that other than pay for staff working in the National Gender Service allowed in the overall yearly hospital budget, there is no actual budget for Gender services.

Since 2019, it has been clear that waiting lists for the National Gender Service would continue to grow in the absence of sufficient investment in staff and clinical space. The matter has been on the risk register of the National Gender Service since 2019.

Multiple business cases have been submitted to both the Acute Hospital Division and the Mental Health Division of the HSE to address this risk and to reduce waiting times. Both additional staff and dedicated clinical space are needed. Decisions on these business cases are pending. If these cases were approved, then the waiting list issue would be resolved

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely



Paul Gallagher  
Chief Director of Nursing and Midwifery