

CC/VAW/MC

Email: pqmidwestacute@hse.ie

06th January 2022

Ms Violet Anne Wynne TD,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 62760/21

*** To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an update on the oncology step-down area in Ennis General Hospital; the number of additional whole-time equivalent posts that will be needed to resource the unit; the estimated capital investment for the budget in 2022; the estimated current investment for 2022; the projected timeline for the service being on stream; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Wynne,

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.

There are currently no plans in place for an oncology step-down unit for Ennis hospital. However, a new pathway for haematology/oncology patients has been established for inpatients in University Hospital Limerick who are deemed suitable to continue their care in one of our Model 2 hospitals including Ennis Hospital. This pathway is currently in place in Ennis Hospital and is working well for both patients and staff.

In addition, UL Hospitals Group recently appointed Dr Terry Hennessy, Consultant Cardiologist as Clinical Lead for our Model 2 Hospitals and Integrated Care. Our Model 2 Hospitals provide vital inpatient medical beds, medical assessment units, injuries units and day case surgeries. Dr Hennessy is working closely with all of our hospital sites including Ennis Hospital to implement positive change and to ensure their development.

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