

March 12th 2021

PQ 12503 21 To ask the Minister for Health the date the HSE placed the order for the two oxygen generators for University Hospital Galway in response to Covid-19; and the date the units were delivered to the Hospital.

Dear Deputy Farrell

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply to you directly in the context of the request for information referenced above, the following outlines the situation.

The decision to procure the oxygen generators (currently situated at UHG), was taken during the 1st COVID-19 wave in April 2020. This decision was taken in the context of significant uncertainty around the potential demand for oxygen in our hospitals. It was taken in the interests of securing additional oxygen capacity and, as such, in the interests of the safety and welfare of our patients, with the potential to save lives. For strategic reasons and to afford the greatest degree of flexibility; a decision was made to assemble these particular oxygen generators in self-contained and packaged plant rooms. Thus permitting them to be deployed at any suitable site as opposed to a static installation.

The units were commissioned offsite in July 2020 and in January 2021, facing into a further COVID-19 surge, a decision was made to deploy the oxygen generators to UHG, as a precautionary measure. They were delivered to UHG on the 14th of January. Again, as a result of successful public health measures and clinical management, this surge is now receding and, likewise, such is the requirement for augmented oxygen supply.

It should be noted that, as with all critical systems, it is common practice and a matter of due diligence, to introduce additional resilience to ensure adequate redundancy and continuity of supply.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,



Chris Kane
General Manager
Galway University Hospital.