



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Oifig um Cheannasáí Seirbhíse do Chúram Príomhúil  
Cúram Sláinte Phobail FSS an Mheán Iarthair  
Ascaill Bhaile Choimín,  
Páirc Gnó an Ráithín, Ráithín  
Luimneach  
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26<sup>th</sup> March, 2021

**Deputy Alan Kelly**  
**1 Summerhill**  
**Nenagh**  
**Co. Tipperary**

**Re: PQ 13667/21 Access to Ultrasound in St. Camillus' Hospital, Limerick.**

Dear Deputy Kelly,

I refer to your recent Parliamentary Question as follows: *"To ask the Minister for Health the status of the General Practitioner direct access scheme for ultrasound in a hospital (St. Camillus' Hospital, Limerick) and if he will make a statement on the matter"*.

The Affidea Ultrasound service operates from the St. Camillus' Hospital site in Limerick. The service was temporarily closed in January 2021, to allow for urgent maintenance works to be carried out on the roof of the building. It was anticipated that this work would be complete by the end of January 2021 and that the service would be operational again by February 2021.

Unfortunately, when works commenced on the roof there was significant unforeseen damage discovered and, therefore, additional work was required which has resulted in delays in restarting this vital service. Another factor which has impacted on the completion of this project is the slowdown in the delivery of materials as a result of Brexit. Alternative accommodation was considered but it was not possible due to IT related issues.

It is now anticipated that this project will be complete by the end of March 2021 and that the Affidea service will resume in mid April 2021. I have been advised that General Practitioners had been notified of the circumstances surrounding the temporary closure of the Affidea service. General Practitioners can submit an urgent referral to the Cork or Kerry service if deemed clinically appropriate.

I trust this information addresses the issues raised in your representation.

**Yours sincerely,**



**Margaret Costello**  
**Head of Service**  
**Primary Care**