



Oifig an Príomhoifigeach, Eagraíocht
Cúram Sláinte Pobail, Lár Tíre, An Lú,
An Mhí Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse
Sláinte, Oifig Cheantair, Bóthar
Ardáin, An Tulach Mhór, Co. Uíbh
Fhailí.

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16th August, 2021

Ms Sorca Clarke T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Re: Parliamentary Question – 17268/21

To ask the Minister for Health if a project team has been appointed to verse the introduction of two new palliative care units in the CHO8 region; if so, the person or body on the group; and the process in which the selection took place.

Dear Deputy Clarke,

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. I have examined the matter and outline the position as follows

The funding model which has been successful in the opening of every hospice to date, is based on local groups fundraising for the capital to build the unit and the HSE Department of Health then providing the annual revenue to operate the service.

In the Midlands there are two groups currently involved in raising the capital i.e. Offaly Hospice Foundation and the Lions Club Hooves for Hospice. Although working very hard, the capacity of just these two groups to provide adequate capital is limited and therefore other avenues are being explored and we continue to seek the support of all hospice groups in the midlands. As the project is in the design stage the team includes members of Palliative teams and HSE Estates.

In line with the commissioning of new specialist palliative care units elsewhere in the country the HSE will develop a service plan for the operation of the Midlands hospice and this will be submitted as part of the annual estimates process in the appropriate year.

The Regional Specialist Palliative Care unit for the North East is to be developed in Drogheda, Co Louth on a site adjacent to Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda. It will be commissioned by philanthropic funds within two years of the granting of planning permission. This unit is to include a 36 in-patient beds, Day Hospital, accommodation for the Specialist Palliative Care Homecare Team, education and research facility.

It will be revenue funded from statutory funds, this undertaking has been given by the Minister of Health to the trustees of the charitable foundation that will commission the building.

I trust the above is in order however please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Des O'Flynn', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Des O'Flynn
Chief Officer
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation