

CC/CC/MC

Email: pqmidwestacute@hse.ie

15th November 2021

Mr Cathal Crowe TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 52981/21

***To ask the Minister for Health if his Department has received a proposal to develop additional capacity at the children's ark paediatric unit University Hospital Limerick; the status of this proposal; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Crowe,

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.

The continued development of the Children's Ark Unit in University Hospital Limerick is a core objective of UL Hospitals Group Strategic Plan.

The National Model of Care for Paediatric Healthcare Services in Ireland sets out the service delivery stipulations for the provision of care at both the new National Children's Hospital as well as supporting satellite, regional and local centres. The Children's Ark Unit at UHL will represent a regional centre to support children in accessing appropriate clinical care within the region.

UL Hospitals Group is developing priorities as part of the Children's Hospital Ireland Paediatric Network and will work with the team at Children's Hospital Ireland to develop and manage clinical networks for all paediatric specialties. We have identified a number of priorities as part of our strategic plan including:

- Developing the Paediatric Emergency Department
- Developing paediatric surgery
- Ensuring we have multi-disciplinary paediatric teams
- Ensuring the availability of the Irish Paediatric Transport Service for the transfer of critically ill children

UL Hospitals Group is keen to support the successful implementation of the national model of care and ensure that the Mid-West is a strong contributor to the overall national network from service delivery, research, training and innovation perspectives.



Working together, caring for you

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I trust this clarifies the position, please contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colette Cowan', written over a horizontal line.

Colette Cowan
Chief Executive Officer
UL Hospitals Group