



24 November 2021

Deputy David Cullinane  
Dáil Éireann  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**PQ 54516/21- To ask the Minister for Health the investments and costs required for upgrading the two major trauma centres; the expansions of services which will be required; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Questions which has been referred by the Minister for Health to the Health Service Executive for direct response.

The National Trauma Strategy published in February 2018, takes a whole system approach addressing all elements of the trauma care pathway including prevention, pre-hospital care, acute hospital care, rehabilitation and supported discharge.

The strategy recommends the establishment of an inclusive trauma system, where a network of facilities and services co-ordinate the care of injured patients along standardised pathways. International studies have consistently shown that concentrating the care of severely injured patients in dedicated Major Trauma Centres is associated with improved access to care, reduced length of stay and demonstrably better outcomes for patients.

Ireland's future state trauma system will consist of two regional trauma networks (Central and South) each with a Major Trauma Centre. These centres will provide the highest level of specialist trauma care to the most severely injured patients in one hospital.

On 27 April 2021, the Government announced the designation of the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital (MMUH) in Dublin as the Major Trauma Centre for the Central Trauma Network. This decision represented a major step in developing the acute hospital trauma services set out in the National Trauma Strategy.

In 2021, funding of €5.7m in annual staff costs was allocated to the MMUH to establish the hospital as a Major Trauma Centre. This funding will enhance services in such areas as the Emergency Department, Interventional Radiology and Trauma Teams. In addition, capital funding of €4.5m was allocated to MMUH for a number of new major trauma bays and to upgrade interventional radiology as part of phase 1a of MMUH's physical infrastructure development plan.

Additional requests for resources to support the establishment of MMUH as a Major Trauma Centre will be submitted as part of the HSE's annual estimates and service planning process.

The next step in implementing the National Trauma Strategy includes developing the Major Trauma Centre at Cork University Hospital. A business case for additional staffing resources required to establish major trauma services at CUH has been submitted as part of the 2022 HSE estimates and service planning process. This funding, if approved, will enhance services in such areas as the Emergency Department, Operating Theatres and Trauma Teams. In addition, a separate business case has been submitted under Critical Care to provide additional critical care bed capacity.

I trust the above information is of assistance to you, however, should you require any further details please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



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**Mr Damian McGovern**  
**Programme Manager**  
**Trauma System Implementation Programme**