



General Manager's Office  
University Hospital Waterford,  
Kilcreene Regional Orthopaedic Hospital, Kilkenny  
South/South West Hospital Group  
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20<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Ms Jennifer Murnane O' Connor TD  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 55841 - To ask the Minister for Health if required funding to staff the new cath lab at University Hospital Waterford which was assured on completion will be provided; when the recruitment process to enable a 24/7 PPCI service to be implemented at the hospital will commence; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Murnane O' Connor

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 the following outlines the position.

HSE Estates advise that construction of the 2nd Cath Lab at UHW is underway with handover expected by Quarter 3, 2022, delayed from Quarter 2 due to infection control and noise issues. It is intended that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cath Lab will be available for operational use by Quarter 4, 2022 at which time both Cath Labs will be operational.

The 2nd Cath Lab will 'mirror' the existing Cath Lab and in this regard will be in a position to undertake the full range of diagnostic, interventional and non-interventional cardiac procedures that are available in the existing upgraded Cath Lab. This is of the utmost importance from a service contingency perspective in the event that the first Cath Lab is out of service. The 2nd Cath Lab will work as per the approval received and the recommendations contained in the Herity report.

A total of 24 WTEs were approved by the South/ South West Hospital Group (S/SWHG) in November 2021 for the staffing of the 2nd Cath Lab and recruitment will take place over the coming months.

The provision of the second cardiac catheterisation lab will be a significant step forward in the care of cardiac patients in this region. The Interventional Cardiologist requirement to provide a 24/7 service would be 8 Consultant WTEs, however, the immediate priority for UHW is to establish the extended working day to 8am-8pm Monday to Friday. Discussions are continuing in relation to the commencement of the extended working day in the existing Cath Lab in UHW. It is anticipated that extended working days (8am-8pm Monday to Friday) will commence in Q1 2022.

The update in relation to the recruitment of additional staffing to support the extended working days to 8am-8pm Monday to Friday is as follows:

- The additional Consultant Interventional Cardiologist post in University Hospital Waterford (UHW) required to support extended worked days was filled on a permanent basis on the 1st of March 2021.
- The replacement Consultant Cardiologist post has since become vacant (due to a resignation) and has been progressing through the recruitment process. Shortlisting for this post went ahead on Monday, 29th November 2021 and unfortunately, no candidate was successful at this stage. The job description for this post is being reviewed and the position will be re-advertised in the coming weeks.

I trust the above is satisfactory but if you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



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**Grace Rothwell**  
**General Manager**  
**University Hospital Waterford**  
**Kilcreene Regional Orthopaedic Hospital**