



18 October 2021

Deputy Colm Burke
Dáil Éireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ 48051/21- To ask the Minister for Health the progress that has been made to implement the recommendations set out in the Trauma Systems for Ireland report 2018 to develop trauma centres and units in hospitals nationally; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Burke

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 the 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 announcement saw funding of €5.7m in annual staff costs allocated to the MMUH to establish the hospital as a Major Trauma Centre. This funding represents the first phase of investment at the MMUH and will enhance services in such areas as the Emergency Department, Interventional Radiology and Trauma Teams. Planning is well underway to provide the physical infrastructure and the recruitment of the specialist and other staff to commence major trauma services.

The Government also announced St. Vincent's University Hospital and Tallaght University Hospital as the Trauma Units for Dublin. Trauma Units will deliver more general trauma care to the majority of patients who do not need the specialist expertise of a Major Trauma Centre. As the Trauma Networks develop, more Trauma Units will be designated across the country.

The next step in implementing the National Trauma Strategy includes investment at the second Major Trauma Centre, Cork University Hospital. A business case for resources required to establish major trauma services at CUH has been submitted as part of the 2022 HSE estimates and service planning process.

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,

Handwritten signature of Damian McGovern in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

Mr Damian McGovern
Programme Manager
Trauma System Implementation Programme