

9th November 2021

Deputy Paul McAuliffe T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2
E: paul.mcauliffe@oireachtas.ie

Re: PQ 51410/21 – Service provision, Cappagh Hospital

“To ask the Minister for Health his plans to increase the level of service provision at the National Orthopaedic Hospital, Cappagh; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy McAuliffe,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question seeking an update on the service provision in the National Orthopaedic Hospital Cappagh, which has been referred to the Ireland East Hospital Group for direct response.

I have had this matter examined and am advised that the National Orthopaedic Hospital Cappagh is Ireland's major centre for Elective Orthopaedic Surgery. It is the biggest dedicated Orthopaedic Hospital in the country.

The hospital provides the full range of Orthopaedic Services including Major Joint Replacement (ankle, hip, knee, foot, shoulder, elbow and wrist), Spinal Surgery including corrective surgery for Scoliosis, Primary Bone Tumour Service, Paediatric Orthopaedics and the management of Sports Injuries.

In 2012, National Orthopaedic Hospital Cappagh established its dedicated Rehabilitation Unit, which delivers specialist rehabilitation services to patients following an acute medical episode with the aim of returning them to independent living where possible. The Unit has a total of 52 beds of which 42 are dedicated to people aged 65 years and over with the remaining 10 beds servicing the needs of patients aged under 65 years.


At an emergency meeting of the National Orthopaedic Hospital Cappagh's Medical Board on 11th March, it was unanimously decided to suspend all non-essential elective surgical procedures and out-patient's appointments, to assist national efforts during Covid-19. The focus switched to cater for orthopaedic trauma patients who would, ordinarily, receive treatment in a major acute hospital setting. In doing so, the National Orthopaedic Hospital Cappagh could help alleviate pressure on the major acute hospitals, freeing up beds and resources to deliver vital care for COVID patients.



The National Orthopaedic Hospital Cappagh's move to trauma is an example of how an organisation can adapt at pace in the midst of such a crisis. This change has posed significant challenges for both clinical and administrative staff; to a person, staff have risen to the challenge. Whilst the hospital is continuing to adjust to its new role.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely



Paul Gallagher
Chief Director of Nursing and Midwifery