

Private & Confidential

27th October, 2021

**Deputy P. Daly, TD
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare St, Dublin 2**

PQ Number: 46152/21

Dear Deputy Daly,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) – South (Cork & Kerry) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to this office for response.

PQ: To ask the Minister for Health if the decision has been made to downgrade University Hospital Kerry from a model 3 hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Pa Daly

The SSWHG and UHK Management Teams met with the 5 Kerry TDs on 11th October and gave a full briefing on all services at the hospital including the issues that you have raised in your PQ concerning the hospital future as a Model 3 hospital. The reply confirms the details advised.

University Hospital Kerry, is and will remain a key Model 3 hospital within the SSWHG. The HSE has invested heavily in the hospital pre and during Covid both from a capital and a human resource perspective.

Recently completed capital developments include the refurbishment of the ICU (290K), the installation of a new second CT machine and upgrade to digital of one of the general X-ray rooms (€1m) and the on-going refurbishment of the ED (€0.9m). Capital works currently in progress include the new 6-bedded HDU (€2.2m), the new blood sciences building (€8.2m) and a new birthing room in the Labour suite (€0.5m). Works are also due to commence shortly on the movement of Women's Health to the Centrepoint development in Tralee town and on the new 6th theatre (Orthopaedic Clean air) and recovery room (€6.0m) and also on additional single rooms on the main orthopaedic ward (€1.8). Finally, planning work is on-going concerning the development of maternity services and isolation rooms on site in a multi-million euro development and a further €9.4m has been committed for a new dedicated Oncology unit on-site at UHK.

From a staffing perspective the SSWHG has increased staff numbers by 134.4% since 2018 (approx. 150 new staff appointments across all services). In 2021 alone UHK hopes to process at least 15 consultant appointments alone – 4 of which will be for four new services (Haematology, Cardiology, Respiratory and Urology). The other posts across Emergency Medicine, Gastroenterology, General Surgery, Dermatology, Rheumatology, Microbiology and Geriatrics will support and develop existing services. Four of these consultants are already in post and the recruitment process for the remainder is well underway.

The HSE/SSWHG/UHK has also invested in the ED and Maternity to support their roles as Trauma Centre and a Maternity unit supporting centres in CUH and CUMH respectively. There has also been service developments across a range of services such as ICPOP, FITT, Orthopaedics, Trauma and Infusion services to support patients here in Kerry and ensure that the hospital is a well-supported, fit for purpose model 3 hospital.

From a financial position the hospital budget has increased from net budget of € 86,863,851 in 2018 to a net budget of € 101,039,604 in 2021 (correct at 30.09.2021 month end accounts and subject to change pending further budget allocations in months 10-12), underscoring the commitment to invest and develop services here in UHK.

I trust this response is to your satisfaction; should you have any further queries however, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Fearghal Grimes
General Manager
University Hospital Kerry