



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive



Chief Operations Officer,
Saolta University Health Care Group,
Old Nurses Home,
University Hospital,
Newcastle Road.
Galway.
Tel: 091 893800

David Cullinane T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

19th April 2022

PQ18215/22:

To ask the Minister for Health if in relation to planning for a cancer centre and radiology oncology units in County Galway for the west and north-west, the services currently provided and planned to be provided at Altnagelvin have been factored in; if the HSE intends to develop services in County Galway for the entire west and north-west including County Donegal; if it is envisaged that patients in County Donegal will continue to avail of appropriate services which are already available at Altnagelvin; the manner in which all-island planning is applied to this context and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question/Public Representation which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The Saolta Executive requested the Saolta Cancer Managed Clinical and Academic Network (MCAN) to develop an infrastructural brief for cancer services at UHG and across the Saolta region. This brief identified the requirement for a Comprehensive Cancer Centre facility at UHG which will enable all cancer services to be located within one block as a 'hospital within a hospital' with key supporting programmes, in line with international best practice.

Subsequently, The Comprehensive Cancer Centre for UHG was escalated to the National Development Plan 2021 – 2030. The Saolta Executive recognises the urgency around this project and is endeavouring to fast track it through the Public Spending Code Process, with the first 2 steps, the SARS and the preliminary business case to be delivered in 2022. The expectation is that the Comprehensive Cancer Centre at UHG will be progressed and delivered over the next 5 years.

It is not envisaged that the development of services at UHG will in any way impact Donegal patients accessing their radiotherapy in Altnagelvin Hospital.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ann Cosgrove', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Ann Cosgrove,
Chief Operations Officer,
Saolta University Health Care Group**