

Deputy Sean Sherlock  
Dáil Eireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

29<sup>th</sup> April 2022

**PQ Number: 20280/22**

**PQ Question:**

To ask the Minister for Health when a modern fit for purpose air conditioning system will be installed at Cork University Maternity Hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Sean Sherlock

Dear Deputy Sherlock

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:

In 2018, CUMH was the focus of significant media coverage because of temperature control problems in our building. This problem was identified by our staff when the hospital opened in 2007 and has been a constant complaint every summer since. Because of the immediate risk to patients and babies, mobile air-conditioning units were placed on each floor of the hospital, these units are large and extremely noisy and not appropriate for a maternity hospital. Following an assessment in 2018 by HSE Estates it was decided that an appropriate air-conditioning system needed to be installed across the hospital. This issues remains a priority on the hospital Risk Register.

Following this significant media coverage in 2018 Minister Harris made a public commitment at the time that this issue would be tackled as a matter of urgency.

CUMH have escalated this issue on numerous occasions to local and HSE National Estates i.e. in June 2020, May 2021 and July 2021. Also to note CUMH had this project included on our Capital Projects list referenced at our monthly meetings with HSE Estates during 2020 and 2021.

In March 2022 we requested a formal update on the status of this project and received the below update:

*Currently a capital submission has been submitted and is "Approved Pending Funding". This project is currently not prioritised in the Estates 2022 Capital Plan. This project has not been tendered.*

We are doing all we can to have this project completed.

Yours sincerely,  
John R. Higgins

**Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University College Cork  
Clinical Director Ireland South Women & Infants Directorate  
South/Southwest Hospital Group**

**Professor John R. Higgins**

**05 MAY 2022**

**Clinical Director  
Approved**