

19th January 2022

Deputy Darren O'Rourke T.D., Dáil Éireann, Leinster House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2 E: darren.orourke@oireachtas.ie

Re: PQ 1896/22 - Theatres, the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital

"To ask the Minister for Health the number of theatres in the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital in each of the years of 2019 to 2021, in tabular form; and if all theatres are in full use."

Dear Deputy O'Rourke,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question seeking an update on the number of theatres in the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital, which has been referred to the Ireland East Hospital Group for direct response.

I have had this matter examined and am advised that the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital has six theatres, including a cataract theatre. All theatres were open and fully utilised during 2019 and 2021.

In 2020, following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, national guidance advised Hospitals to carry out only urgent and time sensitive surgeries. As a result, the cataract theatre was closed during the period April to July 2020. All other theatres were in full use for all of 2020.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

Paul Gallagher

Chief Director of Nursing and Midwifery



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