

*Hospital Manager's Office
Letterkenny University Hospital, Letterkenny,
Co. Donegal F92 AE81*

Telephone: (074) 9123501

Fax: (074) 9104651

13th July 2022

Deputy Mac Lochlainn
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

To ask the Minister for Health if he will ensure that there is no erosion of cardiac care at of Letterkenny University Hospital as a result of the National Review of Specialist Cardiac Services; the engagements that he and his officials have had with the Northern Ireland health authorities on enhancing and basing a cross-Border cardiac care service at Hospital for the people of Derry, Tyrone and Donegal, similar to the North West Cancer Centre based at Altnagelvin Hospital in Derry. - Pádraig Mac Lochlainn

Dear Deputy,

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. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The National Review of Specialist Cardiac Services has not yet been published and consequently it is not possible at this time to identify what impact (positive or negative) it will have on Cardiac care at Letterkenny University Hospital.

The UK based Private company who provided a staffed mobile Cardiac Catheterisation laboratory to Letterkenny University Hospital one day per week informed Saolta/LUH that they would not be renewing their contract from the 1st July 2022.

Letterkenny University Hospital Management are working in conjunction with Letterkenny University Hospital Cardiology and Radiology departments submitted a proposal to incorporate the existing level diagnostic angiography work into the Hospital existing Interventional Suite. This proposal was accepted by Saolta and approval was granted to Letterkenny University Hospital to undertake diagnostic angiography in the Hospital's Interventional suite on an interim basis to be reviewed in the context of the recommendation from the National Review when it is published.

In 2017 Saolta and The Western Health and Social Care Trust established a partnership for the delivery of 24/7 Primary PCI Services for patients who had a STEMI (ST- elevated myocardial infarction). This service is provided to Donegal patients by Altnagelvin Hospital – patients who have a STEMI are brought directly to Altnagelvin by the ambulance who responds to them where they have a Primary PCI procedure. The patients are then

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transferred back to the Coronary Care Unit in Letterkenny University Hospital after their procedure. This service is funded through Saolta and is supported by the Joint appointment of a Consultant Cardiologist who works 4 days per week in LUH and 1 day per week plus on call in Altnagelvin. There has been no diminution of this service by the recent changes.

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

Yours Sincerely,



Seán Murphy
General Manager
Letterkenny General Hospital