

Private & Confidential

7th July 2022

Deputy Brendan Griffin TD,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare St, Dublin 2

PQ Number: 37507/22

Dear Deputy Griffin,

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 Question: To ask the Minister for Health when the awaited action plan for University Hospital Kerry will be ready; if his attention has been drawn to the current difficulties facing the hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Brendan Griffin

With the initiation of major & momentous strategic projects currently underway, University Hospital Kerry is on a hugely positive trajectory:

- **Archus Infrastructural development of Clinical Brief for UHK:**

For University Hospital Kerry to grow and expand its service footprint in a ‘managed’ manner into the next 7-10 years, requires development of a Masterplan Clinical Brief. Earlier this year, the S/SWHG in conjunction with UHK commissioned **Archus Healthcare Infrastructure Specialist** to develop a ‘Whole Hospital Clinical Brief for UHK, HSE’. Archus having a rich and varied portfolio having worked with a vast range of NHS hospitals as well as completing Clinical Briefs for other SSWHG acute hospitals. Engagement sessions have now taken place with staff across the broad spectrum of hospital services – Final Report is shortly anticipated [July 2022]

- **Strategic & Cultural analysis:**

S/SWHG and UHK have engaged the expertise of an external Consultancy group to work with them in the development of a new strategy aligning with the overall goals and framework outlined by the HSE strategy. A key component of this process was to engage with internal stakeholders to understand their views of the organisation -engagement covered the entire spectrum of departments, specialties, and functions to give a voice to the entire workforce at UHK. We look forward to working with the Consultancy Group in focusing on core strengths and progressing a robust strategic plan for UHK into the coming years.

- **HSE Review Team**

Established by the HSE to engage with key clinical and management staff at UHK on issues relating to the effective operation, management and governance of UHK. This review team’s brief was to develop an Action Plan for the hospital with clear deliverables & timescales. Site visit and intensive engagement with stakeholders has taken place. The Review Report which sets out

the priorities and critical dependencies for effecting the actions has now been completed and the recommendations of the report are currently being considered at a local level.

Furthermore and to add to a number of recently opened patient facilities at UHK [eg 6 bedded Critical Care facility April 2022; Birthing suite June 2022; Infusion Suite 2021, 30 bedded ward at outset of Covid] a number of significant capital projects are granted capital allocation in 2022 [Blood Sciences; Oncology Day Ward; Obs Theatre & Upgrade]

- **Human Resources**

From a Human Resources perspective, levels of staffing have significantly increased in recent times [10.8% increase in overall hospital WTE as at May 2022 compared to December 2020] specifically in relation to Consultant posts there has been substantial uplift in new posts approved over the past 4-5 years with further posts in progress. Notwithstanding this, to support safe and effective clinical assessment and management of patients, further growth is required particularly in relation to supporting new Consultant appointments with NCHDs, nursing and clerical teams.

Recruitment is ongoing across all categories of staff at UHK to fill current vacancies.

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