



Féiliméanacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive



Ospidéal Ollscoile Chorcaí  
Cork University Hospital

Cork University Hospital,  
Wilton,  
Cork.  
Ireland.

Telephone: 021 – 4922473  
Fax: 021 – 4342690

Date: 26<sup>th</sup> July 2020

PQ – 37797/22

Deputy Colm Burke  
Dail Eireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**To ask the Minister for Health, if additional funding will be provided to support eye care services in Cork, particularly to ensure that there is greater capacity for services in Cork to assist those with serious conditions such as glaucoma to have more regular care; and if he will make a statement on the matter**

Dear Deputy Burke

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.

Major work has been done over the past two years by the management teams in Cork University Hospital (CUH), South Infirmary-Victoria University Hospital (SIVUH) and the South/ South Hospital Group (SSWHG) to address the capacity issues in the ophthalmology service, which included substantial investment in new Ophthalmology developments by the HSE.

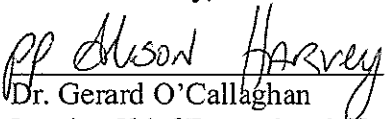
These include the following:

1. The construction of a new state of the art Ophthalmology Outpatient centre at SIVUH. This involves the transfer of staff and services from CUH to SIVUH. The work on this Centre is now complete and it is due to open in October this year.
2. The construction of two new dedicated Ophthalmology operating theatres at SIVUH. These are due to open in December this year.
3. To specifically address the Ophthalmology review waiting list, the SSWHG in collaboration with Cork Kerry Community Healthcare (CKCH) developed a new Unit at Saint Mary's Campus (SMOH) for medical Ophthalmology patients. This Unit opened in November 2021.
4. Two new additional Consultant Medical Ophthalmologists were appointed in August 2021, who work from the new SMOH Unit.

5. An Advanced Nurse Practitioner was appointed to the SMOH Unit, along with an Optometrist, nursing staff, administrative staff and a health care assistant.
6. Ongoing support from the National Treatment Purchase Fund (NTPF).

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

  
Dr. Gerard O'Callaghan  
Interim Chief Executive Officer