

15th June, 2022

Mr. Pearse Doherty T.D.
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ ref 30364/22

“To ask the Minister for Health the status of Lifford Community Hospital; the plans that the HSE has for the hospital; if they include the construction of a new facility on a greenfield site; if so, the timeframe for any proposed development; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Doherty,

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 2021 Lifford Unit was due to be reregistered for a further 3 year period similar to other units in Donegal, however HIQA had concerns regarding the suitability of the premises to deliver quality care. The Older People Services engaged with HIQA and it was agreed that that no further admissions would take place until upgrading works were complete. These include roof repairs, fire safety upgrading, infection control and extensive refurbishment. From the 6.8.2021 the Unit closed to facilitate these essential works.

Meetings between National Older Persons Service, National Estates and CHO1 took place and it was agreed that a Business Plan for Capital submission would be made for Lifford. A business case for both an 18 bed refurb and a 21 bed refurb were submitted in early 2022, however with further appraisal it was agreed that the most appropriate solution, both locally and national, would be a 25 bed build on a green field site. We are also engaging with other relevant stakeholders to expand the facility to include wider health and social care services. The final updated costed Business Case including the schedule of accommodation is nearing completion and will be submitted to the National Capital & Property Steering Committee for their consideration. As such, the timeframe for the proposed development can only be assured after the proposal has been considered, accepted and ratified.

Finally the CHO wish to confirm that there was a very positive engagement between the HSE and the Friends of Lifford Community Hospital on Thursday, June 2nd. Both parties agreed to work together constructively to deliver the much needed Health and Social Care services for the East Donegal communities on a greenfield site. We have also had a positive response from the Donegal County Council Executive to establish suitable sites for same.

As such the HSE will continue to liaise closely with all relevant key stakeholders including the Friends of Lifford Community Hospital in this regard.

Yours sincerely



Frank Morrison
Head of Service Older Persons