

**Private & Confidential**

7<sup>th</sup> July 2022

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

**PQ Number: 31541/22**

**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 if expanded Haematology services will be provided at University Hospital Kerry to help prevent cancer patients from County Kerry having to make long and regular journeys to Cork for treatment and disease management; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Brendan Griffin

The National Cancer Strategy goal is to treat patients near home – For University Hospital Kerry, this implies implementing a ‘hub and spoke’ model of cancer care for some blood cancers in conjunction with CUH.

To enable this model of care requires the appropriate resourcing including Consultant staff, Haematology nursing along with highly specialised unit appropriate to this care delivery.

In terms of the manpower resourcing, the first of two Consultant Haematologist posts for UHK was appointed during 2021. The second Consultant Haematologist post has been approved by the Consultant appointment Committee – it is anticipated this will shortly be advertised by the Public Appointment Service. These two Consultant posts will enable a model of interconnected Haematology [Clinical and Laboratory] service between CUH and UHK, whereby it is envisaged that the Kerry Consultants could see some patients in CUH with Kerry addresses and supervise their transition to care in UHK [for particular cases]. With regard to Haematology Nursing, National campaign for CNM post commenced in June and additional funding from the NCCP was announced also in June for another specialist nursing post to UHK.

In terms of the specialised treating capacity - While some chemotherapy is currently provided at the Oncology Unit UHK, there is a lengthy wait list due to the insufficient specialised capacity required. Plans are in motion for Oncology dayward upgrade and extension at UHK – Capital Funding for this has been allocated in the National Capital Programme 2022

I trust this response is to your satisfaction; should you have any further queries however, please do not hesitate to contact me

**Yours sincerely,**



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**Fearghal Grimes  
General Manager  
University Hospital Kerry**