

CC/DC/MC

Email: [pqmidwestacute@hse.ie](mailto:pqmidwestacute@hse.ie)

07<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Mr David Cullinane TD,  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 34789/22, PQ 34788/22

To ask the Minister for Health his views on plans for UL Hospital Group to partner with a company (details supplied) in developing an elective centre in Limerick; if he supports this project; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -David Cullinane

Details supplied: UPMC

To ask the Minister for Health the details and funding requirements of the elective centre in Limerick proposed to be developed by UL Hospital Group in partnership with a company (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. -David Cullinane

Details supplied: UPMC

Dear Deputy Cullinane

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

It is the belief of UL Hospitals Group that the Mid-West must have an elective hospital to serve the well described needs of patients in the Mid-West.

Admissions through the ED at UHL account for 83% of inpatient bed days, leaving limited capacity for elective activity. Frequent cancellations of elective activity to accommodate increases in demand for emergency care have resulted in long and growing inpatient/day-case waiting lists.

In January 2021, more than 2,500 patients were on the inpatient/ day-case waiting list which represents a greater than 10% increase in the past 2 years.

Since then waiting lists have almost doubled and by January 2022 there were a total of 4,744 patients on the inpatient/daycase waiting list across UL Hospitals Group.

The private sector is unable to mitigate this effectively; private bed capacity in the Mid-West is the lowest in the country with only c. 50 beds within the Bon Secours Hospital, Limerick, compared with > 250 beds available the Galway Clinic & Bon Secours Hospital, and >600 beds in the South / South West catchment area.

UL Hospitals Management team and senior clinicians met the Minister for Health on the 17<sup>th</sup> February 2022. Clinicians outlined the crisis for elective care and reiterated the core requirement for an elective hospital. Concerns were raised regarding the Mid-West not being included in national plans for elective sites, now agreed for Galway and Cork.

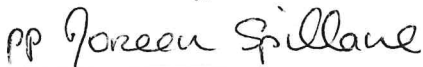
UL Hospitals has reviewed many options and in line with codes for public spending have identified a number of options, including a 120 bed facility with theatres for St. John's Model 2 Hospital. This would require a government directive to fund at both capital and revenue levels.

In addition, Limerick City Council and members of the Limerick 2030 plan have engaged with the University of Pittsburgh Medical Centre (UPMC) on developing lands in a Limerick regeneration area. This includes plans for Limerick social housing. Limerick City Council sought UL Hospitals to meet with UPMC to outline the specific health needs of the Mid-Western region which informed UPMC's plans to build a 150 bed hospital, providing capital funding. They proposed the model of a Section 38 Hospital jointly run by UPMC and UL Hospitals Group.

Such decisions are beyond the scope of UL Hospitals, they require government approval and thereafter sanction from the HSE. We understand that UPMC have engaged local and national political representatives on this proposal, as well as St. John's Hospital and UL Hospitals Group.

I trust this clarifies the position, please contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,



**Prof Colette Cowan**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**UL Hospitals Group**