



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive



University College Cork, Ireland
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

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7th April 2022

Deputy Matt Shanahan,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2,
D02 XR20

PQ Ref 14369/22

*** To ask the Minister for Health the reason that University Hospital Waterford continues to remain the most significantly underfunded model four hospital in the country versus its peers; the reason for the significant disparity in whole-time equivalent positions compared to bed ratios at the hospital versus peer model four hospitals has not been addressed; the reason capital budgets to deliver additional clinical space to deal with these lists has not been approved at the hospital unlike other peer model four hospitals given that the outpatients elective lists of the hospital exceed 50,000 persons on the waiting list; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Matt Shanahan**

Dear Deputy Shanahan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Representation, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. We have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Management at South/ South West Hospital Group (S/SWHG) are committed to the on-going development of all ten (10) of its hospitals and endeavours to address issues and concerns as they arise to ensure the continued high quality delivery of patient care across the region.

University Hospital Waterford (UHW) is one of two (2) Model 4 hospitals within the S/SWHG and plays a pivotal role in the provision of services to the people of the South East. I have outlined below the investment that the Group has made over the past number of years to ensure that UHW continues to develop and improve its services.

Budget

University Hospital Waterford (UHW) has seen an **increase of 29.68%** in their closing budget between 2019 (€201.219m) and 2021 (€260.938m), which is the largest increase for any hospital within the Group over the past three (3) years.

WTE

UHW has also seen a significant increase in WTE over the past number of years. Since 2019, UHW's WTE has **increased by 247.65** and has a current staffing of 2,196.45WTE as of February 2022.

Waiting Lists

The South/ South West Hospital Group (S/SWHG) in collaboration with UHW and its nine (9) other hospitals has undertaken substantial work to address waiting lists to manage the effects of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and last year's cyber- attack on overall activity as we continue to work with all our hospitals to recover and improve patient access to services.

The Group has generated additional capacity through a variety of means such as insourcing (out of hours' capacity), use of the private hospital arrangement and National Treatment Purchase Fund (NTPF) funding e.g. utilising new ways of working such as "Telehealth" for outpatient appointments where appropriate.

UHW has seen significant improvements for long waiters for inpatient day cases waiting greater than 12 months for and for outpatients waiting greater than 18 months for appointments. Please see Table 1 and Table 2 below.

Table 1

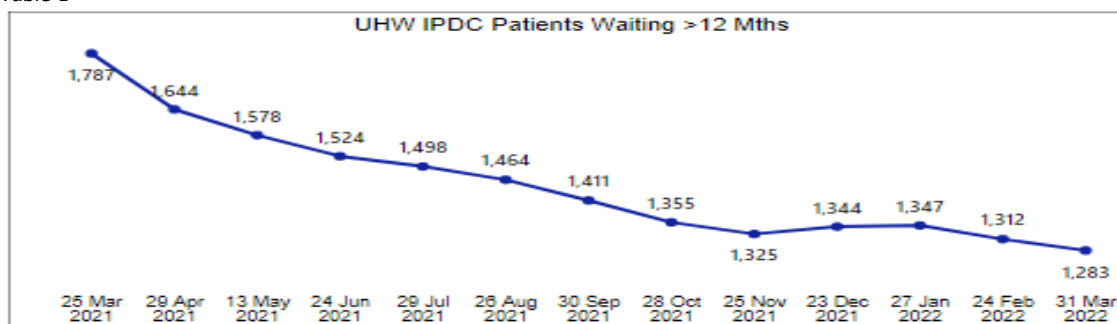
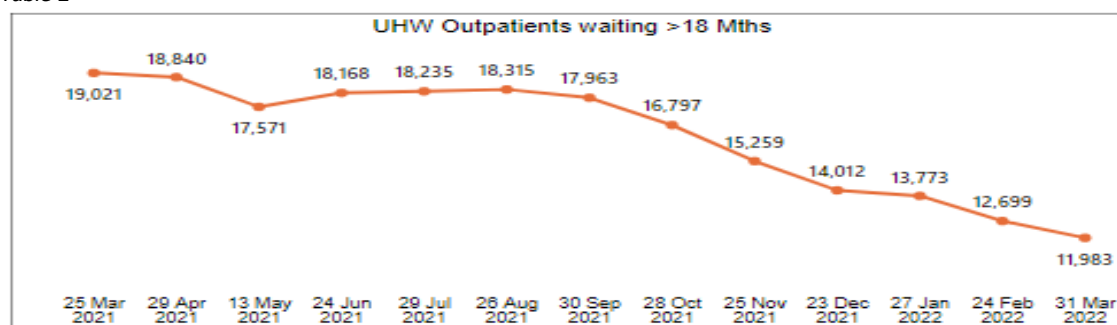


Table 2



Capital

Management at UHW and S/SWHG in conjunction with HSE Estates have commissioned a health planning process to strategically examine current and future capacity requirements having regard to demographic and other demand factors over the next 15 years. This process is being overseen by a Steering Group which has appropriate representation from key stakeholder groups. The value of this exercise is to align future investment decisions with objective planning and empirical data on demand factors. This Group will report to the CEO of S/SWHG and its output will inform prioritisation and sequencing of future capital developments.

The Archus Heath Planners have been on site in UHW for the past number of months and have been engaging with both clinical and non-clinical hospital staff to establish the requirements for the continued development of the hospital. The Archus Report is currently being drafted and is expected to be finalised and agreed by relevant parties in the coming weeks. On finalisation of the report, UHW will work with S/SWHG and HSE Estates to make the relevant Capital Submissions for new developments that are required.

You will be aware of the on-going work to address the need for additional clinical space at the hospital and management at UHW and S/SWHG are continuing to work with HSE Estates to address these issues as a matter of priority. UHW are in the process of assessing a number of locations to determine if they would be suitable for the development of frontline clinical services to assist with capacity constraints and also continue to work with our community colleagues in South East Community Healthcare in relation to the relocation of the community services off site to further accommodate clinical space required by UHW.

HSE Estates have also confirmed that a submission will be made at the April Capital Steering Committee for the development of additional bed capacity for UHW.

In addition, the below developments are also ongoing to assist with capacity:

Outpatient Department

A co- locatable 2 storey modular build with 16 consulting rooms has been sourced until a more permanent solution is designed and completed and is expected on site in early April 2022 with expected handover in Q2 2022.

The long term development of a proposed 2 storey suite over the existing outpatient department is on-going. Due to urgent need here the Design has been progressed via Revenue funding. The Project is at full design/pre-tender stage and is being submitted for Capital Funding allocation in Q2 2022.

Modular Emergency Unit to function as the 2nd ED

HSE Estates advised that the contract for the provision of the UHW Modular Emergency Unit was awarded on the 15th of November 2021 and enabling works are on-going to clear the site for the arrival of the modular unit.

Ophthalmic Theatre

The contract for the provision of the Ophthalmic Theatre has been awarded to the preferred provider. The site is being set up with expected handover by July 2022.

Laboratory Extension

HSE Estates have confirmed that the Layout Design is complete for this project and will be submitted for planning permission by end Q1 2022.

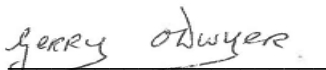
Replacement MRI & contingency for 2nd CT

The installation of a new Plain Film Fluoroscopy room is complete.

HSE Estates are working with the equipment supplier for turnkey installation of SPECT CT with completion expected in July 2022. This will allow for the MRI replacement and facility upgrade project to commence thereafter.

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,



Mr. Gerry O' Dwyer

CEO,

South/South West Hospital Group

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