

CC/MM/MC

Email: pgmidwestacute@hse.ie

17th May 2021

Mr Mattie McGrath TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 49125/21

*** To ask the Minister for Health if a review has been carried out on the consequences of the reconfiguration of acute health services in the mid-west region; if he will make findings of this review available; if not, if he will expedite a review; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Mattie McGrath**

Dear Deputy McGrath,

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 am not aware of any review on the reconfiguration of acute and emergency care in the MidWest as described in the question.

However, significant work is underway in assessing the challenges in acute and community care in the region while plans are also being developed in response to previous work by expert teams.

University Hospital Limerick was included in the Nine Site Review of Unscheduled Care Performance to review unscheduled (emergency) care performance across the nine hospitals that were under the greatest pressures in Winter 2018/2019. This expert group was chaired by Prof Frank Keane, RCSI and included specialists from the NHS Scotland. The aim of the review was to provide expert insight and recommendations that could help hospitals improve processes and procedures in delivering patient care.

The review conducted by an Independent Review Team between August and November 2019 provided thirty recommendations across the areas of; leadership and governance, operational processes and pathways pre and post admission, integrated working, data and business intelligence. The Quality and Patient Safety Team at University Hospital Limerick has developed a number of Quality Improvement Pathways to ensure the recommendations of this review are enacted.

Separately, I can confirm that HSE specialists in ED management are working on the ED Improvement Programme around the country, including at University Hospital Limerick. Members of the UL Hospitals Group Executive met with members of the HSE specialist team on Friday, May 13th regarding integrated care and patient flow in the Mid West. We discussed a long-term and a short-term plan, which will be a collaborative programme of work between the HSE specialists, UL Hospitals

Group and HSE Mid West Community Healthcare. We look forward to progressing this work over the coming weeks.

In addition, UL Hospitals Group CEO Prof Colette Cowan recently commissioned Deloitte to conduct an external review of patient flow at University Hospital Limerick.

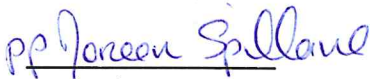
This review is intended to provide an independent and comprehensive overview of patient flow through the ED at UHL while at the same time looking at the use of resources, processes in place and identifying any constraints.

The overarching objectives of this review is to:

- Define and describe the source(s) of flow challenges experienced within the ED and UHL
- Determine and comment on possible opportunities to enhance the existing patient flow approach
- Reflect on the effectiveness and impact of patient flow initiatives introduced to date by UHL

Once the review is complete, the findings will be circulated to external stakeholders. 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