

CC/MB/MC

Email: pgmidwestacute@hse.ie

24th May 2022

Mr Martin Browne TD,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 23705/22

*** To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 521 of 4 May 2022, when the assessment of University Hospital Limerick's patient pathways is expected to conclude; if the specialist team tasked with ascertaining the additional resources that will be deployed to alleviate the current pressures being experienced in the emergency department will have to wait until the hospital's management assessment of patient pathways is concluded; and the way that the hospital's managed assessment will differ to the recommendations of the specialist team. -Martin Browne**

Dear Deputy Browne,

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 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, I recently commissioned Deloitte to conduct an external review of patient flow at University Hospital Limerick.

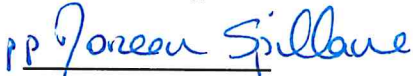
This review is intended to provide an independent and comprehensive overview of patient flow through the ED at UHL while at the same time looking at the use of resources, processes in place and identifying any constraints. The review team will also consult with key external stakeholders including Mid-West Community Healthcare and GPs regarding pre-admission and post-admission pathways.

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