



General Manager's Office  
University Hospital Galway  
Newcastle Road  
Galway  
Tel: (091) 544200

June 13<sup>th</sup> 2022

**PQ Ref. 26899 /22**

**To ask the Minister for Health the progress that has been made to date with the provision of the new accident and emergency facility in Galway University Hospital; the average number of persons who have been left sitting overnight in chairs since the beginning of 2021, in the present facility while awaiting a bed in the hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Éamon Ó Cuív**

Dear Deputy Ó Cuív

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply to you directly in the context of the request for information referenced above, the following outlines the situation.

The proposed new ED and Women & Children's development at UHG is a large and extremely complex project, requiring a number of enabling works contracts to be completed on site before the ED W&C project can commence. It is important to note that this is a project in excess of €100m and is therefore subject to the full rigours of the latest Public Spending Code as published by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER). In compliance with the Public Spending Code, A Strategic Assessment Report has been completed and submitted to National HSE in April 2022 for review/approval. Following approval, HSE will issue the Strategic Assessment Report to the Department of Health for formal submission to DPER. This represents Decision Gateway 0 of the current Public Spending Code which if successful leads to Approval to Develop the Proposal to the next stage (i.e. Preliminary Business Case).

A Preliminary Business Case report has been completed and submitted within the HSE for review/approval. Following approval, HSE will issue the Preliminary Business Case Report to the Department of Health for formal submission to DPER. Consequently, this project will require Government approval on the Preliminary Business Case and at two other project milestones prior to any contractor procurement or construction. The Government is the Approving Authority on a project in excess of €100m. In addition the project may be subject to an independent review and assurance mechanism as indicated in the Public Spending Code. This represents Decision Gateway 1 of the current Public Spending Code.

Once the Preliminary Business Case is approved, we will be able to provide a date for the planning application for the new ED and Women & Children's development at UHG. The successful outcome of the planning application will determine the future project timelines (i.e. tender, construction, handover).

However, works in support of additional Covid accommodation are progressing on site at UHG with the construction of the interim (temporary) ED (under current Emergency COVID-19 legislation & regulations (SI 93 & SI 113). This accommodation shall also serve as an enabling advanced works project to clear the site for the permanent ED and Women & Children's development. Works commenced in June 2021 and are programmed to be completed in Q3 2022. A Grant of Planning for a second advanced contract was approved by Galway City Council Planning Department for a new Out-Patients Department (and a standalone Adult Cystic Fibrosis OPD) at Merlin Park University Hospital. These projects are currently at detailed design stage and will be issued to tender thereafter. Works are currently programmed to commence on site in Q3 2022 and having the new facility ready for Q3 2023.

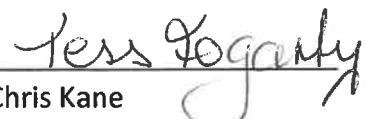
**In relation to the average number of persons who have been left sitting overnight in chairs since the beginning of 2021:**

Our ED data available is that of the number Patients on chairs overnight within our ASAU /Green ED awaiting to be admitted to a bed.

We can only provide this data from September 2021 to the present date and the overall total for that period is 513 patients.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

  
PP Chris Kane  
General Manager  
Galway University Hospitals