

CC/KOD/MC

Email: pqmidwestacute@hse.ie

07th June 2022

Mr Kieran O'Donnell TD,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 26980/22

*** To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an update on the expert team deployed to tackle crisis-levels of overcrowding at University Hospital Limerick. -Kieran O'Donnell**

Dear Deputy O'Donnell,

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.

HSE specialists in Unscheduled Care are currently working on the ED Improvement Programme around the country, including at University Hospital Limerick.

Members of this national support team made their initial visit to UHL as part of this work on May 13th.

They subsequently visited the hospital on June 2nd and 3rd. During this latter visit, the team met with staff in the Emergency Department, Acute Medical Assessment Unit and Acute Surgical Assessment Unit, inpatient wards, theatre and the Navigation Hub.

The national team has also met with members of the executive management teams at UL Hospitals Group and our management colleagues in HSE MidWest Community Healthcare. We have discussed short-term and longer-term plans on integrated care and patient flow on what is a collaborative piece of work between the HSE specialists, UL Hospitals Group and HSE Mid West Community Healthcare. We expect to be in a position to provide a further update on these plans in the near future.

I can confirm that, 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.

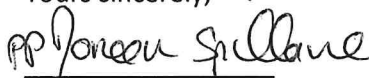
The overarching objectives of this review is to:

- 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

- Consult with key external stakeholders including Mid-West Community Healthcare and GPs regarding pre-admission and post-admission pathways.

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