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South Infirmary - Victoria University Hospital Ollscoil Ospidéal Otharlann an Deiscirt-Victoria

A Teaching Hospital of University College, Cork.

7th December 2022

Mr. Sean Sherlock T.D.

Re: Question no: 56536/22

* To ask the Minister for Health the status of operations to transfer ophthalmology services from Cork University Hospital to South Infirmary-Victoria University Hospital; the costs borne to date of that transfer in tabular form; and the reasons for delay

Dear Deputy Sherlock,

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 have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

I wish to confirm that work is progressing despite the considerable challenges that should be expected with a project of this magnitude.

With regards to the construction costs borne to date for the new Ophthalmology OPD building, SIVUH is not privy to this information due to the fact that HSE Estates were the client for this build and the owners of this information at present. I can confirm that SIVUH received a budget of €2m for Ophthalmology OPD equipment. At of 6th December 2022 €1,656,293 has been incurred.

The opening of the new Ophthalmology Unit is contingent on the following factors:

- HSE approval of a Consultant Ophthalmologist post to oversee and govern the Eye Casualty. This has been escalated to HSE Acute Operations by the SSWHG
- HR Principles Document – this has not been signed off by the IHCA however, the SSWHG have instructed CUH management to proceed with the consultation and engagement process with the staff groups who are impacted by the proposed transfer
- Finalisation of the pay and non pay budgets
- Data cleaning and data Migration Process of CUH Waiting Lists
- Global supply chain issues for Ophthalmic Medical Equipment may impact on all of the remaining OPD equipment being onsite by January 2023

We are committed to transferring a safe and efficient Ophthalmic service to the state-of-the-art facilities here at SIVUH and we are working hard with the CUH, MUH and SSWHG to achieve this in as timely a manner as possible.

I trust that this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Helen Donovan
Chief Executive Officer