



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive



University College Cork, Ireland
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

OFFICE OF THE CEO
SOUTH / SOUTH WEST HOSPITAL GROUP
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18th October 2022

Deputy Colm Burke,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 47961/22

'To ask the Minister for Health if additional staff will be employed to meet the increased demand for services in view of the transfer of ophthalmology outpatient department, eye casualty and operating theatre sessions from Cork University Hospital and the Mercy University Hospital, Cork to the South Infirmary Victoria University Hospital, Cork and the scheduled opening new ophthalmology centre in Ballincollig; and if he will make a statement on the matter'.

- Deputy Colm Burke

Dear Deputy Burke,

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. We have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The process has begun to recruit additional staff for the extra theatre for the new Ophthalmology theatres at South Infirmary/Victoria University Hospital (SIVUH). Regarding the Ophthalmology outpatient department and eye casualty a gap analysis has been completed for staffing levels.

The transfer of OPD Eye Casualty Service from Cork University Hospital to the new Ophthalmology OPD Unit in SIVUH will enable the provision of the existing level of service. Any additional service provision will need to be progressed through the usual funding mechanisms which would include the preparation of a business proposal for submission to the Acute Hospital Division.

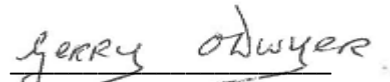
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare, the South/South West Hospital Group and SIVUH are currently working collaboratively to develop a Regional Eye Care Service based in the new Primary Community Care Centre located in Ballincollig, Cork. This proposal is aligned to the following goals in the Sláintecare Implementation Strategy 2018:

- Expanded community-based care to bring care closer to home;
- Increased integration between the hospital sector and community based care.
- Development of new models of more effective and integrated care that drive value and maximise use of resources.

The above proposal is pending approval of a business case submitted for appropriate staffing to deliver an integrated Eye Care Service. At this time the business case has not been approved and no further timeline can be provided. The building in Ballincollig is now operational and ready for equipping pending funding approval.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gerry O'Dwyer". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Mr. Gerry O' Dwyer

CEO,

South/South West Hospital Group

E-mail ceo.sswhg@hse.ie