

**28<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

Deputy Neasa Hourigan T.D,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2  
E: [neasa.hourigan@oireachtas.ie](mailto:neasa.hourigan@oireachtas.ie)

**Re: PQ/42355/22**

**“To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an update on plans to set up scalp-colling services in the oncology ward of the Mater Hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”**

Dear Deputy Hourigan,

I refer to the recent PQ made regarding scalp-colling services in the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, which has been referred to the Ireland East Hospital Group for direct response.

I have had this matter examined and am advised that the Oncology Ward plans to set up scalp colling services but needs to be fully staffed in order to do so. They have 3 vacancies at the moment and are prioritising patient care.

They plan by the end of quarter 4 have a pilot run. This increases patient time in the day ward and may reduce access to care so it is necessary to wait until the staffing is right.

New staff are due to commence in the next 2 months and there will initially be a pilot of one unit. Each unit is 13000 euro and to give this service to all patients 6 units will be needed - the funding is not in place for this yet.

I trust this information is helpful to you.

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