



Mr Joe Carey, TD
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

31st May 2023

PQ 10302/23* To ask the Minister for Health if he will outline his plans to advance the fast-tracking of the development of two additional 96-bed ward blocks at University Hospital Limerick under the National Development Plan to address in-patient bed capacity shortage in the mid-west region; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Joe Carey

Dear Deputy Carey,

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.

Construction works are underway on the delivery of the first phase of the new bed capacity envisaged in the masterplan for University Hospital Limerick (UHL). The works include the provision of an initial 96 bed inpatient facility consisting of four 24 bed inpatient wards above the existing dialysis and emergency department floors. It is anticipated that these initial 96 inpatient beds will be ready for use during Q1 2025.

It is acknowledged that there is a need to progress further additional bed capacity at UHL as matter of urgency for use in the near future. It is therefore proposed, subject to the necessary approvals and availability of funding to expedite the second planned hospital block by commencing site preparation works for that block, later this year as part of the current construction works. These additional works as proposed would form the podium on which a second 96 bed inpatient facility could be constructed.



Separately, and in parallel it is proposed to initiate the new project for the delivery of the second 96 bed block and to progress the associated procurement, design and statutory approval processes.

The proposal is subject to availability of funding and formal approval processes in the normal way.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul de Freine".

Paul de Freine
National Director
Capital & Estates