

**General Manager's Office  
University Hospital Galway  
Newcastle Road  
Galway  
Tel: (091) 544200**

30<sup>th</sup> May, 2023

REF: PQ16353/23

RE: To ask the Minister for Health the details of the HSE decision-making process leading to tree-felling works carried out in Merlin Woods, Galway in 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Neasa Hourigan

Dear Deputy Hourigan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply to you directly in the context of the request for information referenced above.

In response to your query, this work was completed as part of normal annual maintenance work within the grounds of Merlin Park hospital. The HSE engaged a Tree Surgery contractor to remove trees that were decaying and at risk of falling. This work was done in conjunction with the HSE Grounds Maintenance team, which is led by a qualified Horticulturalist. A number of trees that were along the routes of proposed footpaths to be constructed this year were also removed. Trees and scrub within the campus grounds, that were encroaching onto footpaths and too close to buildings were trimmed back and in some cases removed. Before the works commenced, the HSE ordered 60 replacement trees, which have now planted in Merlin Park. These are now planted. Approximately 70 trees were removed.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,



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Chris Kane  
General Manager  
Galway University Hospitals