



Mr Martin Browne, TD  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

3<sup>rd</sup> May 2023

**PQ 16643/23\* To ask the Minister for Health if the suitability of the current site of St. Patrick's Hospital, Cashel for a new 60-bed community nursing unit has been determined in light of a planning notice issued notifying intent to demolish the gate lodge at the site; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Martin Browne**

Dear Deputy Browne,

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.

The "Gate Lodge" at St Patrick's Hospital, Cashel which is scheduled for demolition, is a poor quality 20th century building. It is located at the front of the site, close to the entrance gateway from the Cahir Road. This building is considered unsuitable for the provision of healthcare services. Its demolition will also allow for better access to the site. It is unrelated to the proposed 60-bed Community Nursing Unit.

In relation to the proposed 60 bed Community Nursing Unit, it was originally proposed to locate the CNU on the existing hospital site. In 2019 the design team commenced progressing the initial design process, however the emergence of Covid 19 pandemic interrupted work on this project. It also resulted in the relocation of the patients to the nearby Our Lady's Hospital, and as part of this move, other services had to be relocated to St Patrick's Hospital, Cashel.



In line with project guidelines and best practice an options appraisal is now being prepared to review all options for delivering the proposed CNU accommodation. This will include all site options.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Paul de Freine', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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**Paul de Freine**  
**National Director**  
**Capital & Estates**