



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta
Géaroibríochtaí

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Deputy Joe Flaherty
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

7th March, 2023

PQ 7447/23 - To ask the Minister for Health if he will give consideration to a minor injuries' unit for St Joseph's Campus in Longford town; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Flaherty,

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 National Emergency Medicine Programme (EMP) Model of Care includes the development and support of Injury Units, allowing for the safe provision of care for many injuries that are unlikely to require same-day hospital admission. Approximately 130,000 patients attend the 11 Injury Units in the country each year ([Injury Units - HSE.ie](https://www.hse.ie/eng/health/injuryunits/)). They are designed to provide the same level of care as would be available for their condition as an Emergency Department (ED), but more locally and with a shorter waiting time. More minor injuries can be dealt with in GP surgeries.

It is important to have a named Consultant in Emergency Medicine in an ED providing clinical governance and other professional supports to an Injury Unit. An essential requirement, apart from appropriately trained doctors or advanced nurse practitioners, for the establishment of an Injury Unit is exclusive access during the hours of opening to appropriate clinical spaces proportionate to the anticipated number of patients attending and on-site access to x-ray facilities that allow for the performance of limb x-rays. The establishment of future LIUs would require consideration through the appropriate HSE channels.

I trust this is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Nessa Lynch
General Manager
Acute Operations

