



Oifig an Stiúrthóra Náisiúnta
Géaroibríochtaí

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An Bóthar Míleata, Cill Mhaighneann, Baile
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Deputy Sorca Clarke
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

24th March, 2023

PQ 7622/23 To ask the Minister for Health if given the population, Athlone is being considered as a location for the provision of a hospital. -Sorca Clarke

Dear Deputy Clarke,

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.

A key focus for the HSE is ensuring that existing capacity, both Hospital and Community, is maintained and developed, where possible, to meet growing demand for services.

Slaintecare sets out the requirement for a significant programme of reform to deliver safe and timely access to care in the appropriate setting, improved health outcomes for patients and a more effective use of resources. This will require the enhancement and development of services across a range of key areas to include establishing elective hospital facilities, building general and specialist bed capacity, improving patient flow through the hospital system from admission to discharge and transforming access to scheduled care services.

In addition, acute services will work in an integrated way with community services to provide supports at the lowest appropriate level of care to enable people to access care at home or as close to home as possible.

The HSE and the Department of Health are responsible for the continuing examination of demand/capacity profiles for Health in the context of the above.

I trust this is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Nessa Lynch
General Manager
Acute Operations