

12th July , 2023

FAO Pauline Tully

E: pauline.tally@oireachtas.ie

Re: To ask the Minister what measures he is taking to address the extensive waiting list in the National Rehabilitation Hospital, Dún Laoghaire

Dear Ms Tully

We acknowledge receipt of your enquiry our waiting lists at the NRH.

“What measures are being taken to address the extensive waiting list in the National Rehabilitation Hospital”.

- Rigorous waiting list validation with pooled shared waiting lists
- Referring to MCRN teams, admitting only most clinically appropriate patients to the NRH
- Where clinically appropriate, patients are referred to NRH Outpatient services rather than awaiting an inpatient admission.
- Introduction of shared pathways of care where patients in local hospitals attend for Day Programmes that can be continued in their local hospitals (Clontarf for Patients attending for Prosthetic Rehabilitation)
- Improving pathways of care to reduce Delayed Transfers of Care – ongoing engagement with HSE.
- The introduction of Rehabilitation Co-ordinators to continue to link with patients on the waiting list and ensure that they remain rehab-ready.
- The Rehabilitation Co-Ordinator’s will remove patients from that waiting list if our service is no longer required to increase throughput and will try to facilitate swaps with the acute hospitals to maintain throughput.
- Embracing opportunities to tailor the delivery of rehabilitation services through technology and innovation such as ‘Attend Anywhere’.

Plans for Additional Bed Capacity

Following the successful move for patients and staff into Phase 1 of the National Rehabilitation Hospital three-phase redevelopment plan, the focus is to advance Phase 2 as quickly as possible. Phase 1 facilitates only some of the hospital services in the new environment, while other services remain in the original building (Cedars). Phase 2 will involve the transfer of all current services into the new hospital environment; new diagnostics (CT and MRI) and an additional 60-80 beds at the request of the HSE. Following approval of the business case for Phase 2 of the new Hospital Development as part of the strategic assessment report (SAR) process, the NRH is proceeding to seek full planning and design of the Phase 2 Development with the intention of proceeding to Phase 3 with plans to deliver 235 beds in accordance with an NRH brief for the long-term development of the campus.

In December 2022, Minister Stephen Donnelly visited the NRH and this presented the opportunity for the Chairman, Mr Kieran Fleck, along with Prof Jacinta Morgan, Clinical Director and Mr Derek Greene, CEO to apprise the Minister that the Covid 19 crisis brought into sharp focus the necessity for further rehabilitation services, emphasising that Phase 2 and Phase 3 urgently need to be advanced to



provide additional rehabilitation beds to meet both the current and future needs of the population and to address the urgent requirement for enhanced rehabilitation services.

If we can be of any further assistance, please feel free to contact us.

I trust this information is helpful to you.

Yours sincerely



Alison McClurg
Executive Assistant
CEO Office
National Rehabilitation Hospital