

21st July 2023

Deputy Duncan Smith (T.D.),
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2
E: duncan.smith@oireachtas.ie

Re: 33711/23

Dear Deputy Smith,

I refer to the Representation seeking how much funding would be required to extend the opening hours until 9pm, seven days a week at the Mater Smithfield Rapid Injury Unit, which has been referred to the Ireland East Hospital Group for direct response.

I have had this matter examined and am advised Currently Mater Smithfield Rapid Injury Unit is open 8am to 8pm weekdays (final registration at 17:30). 10am to 8pm weekends (final registration at 17:30). Final registration times are required to provide sufficient time to complete assessment and care before the unit closes.

This answer is based on extending registration opening hours to 9pm, with unit closure at 11pm. However, it should be noted that in a recent national review of local injury units the recommendation is to standardise operating hours for all Injury Units to an 8am to 8pm service. This proposal would be a deviation from this recommendation. This review also recommends that a similar facility should be developed in South Dublin which would ease current pressures on our service.

Extending opening by 3 hours per day is a 25% increase in opening hours and an equivalent increase in activity will result in additional 5000 attendances (based on July 2022 – June 2023 attendances).

Extending to a 15-hour day necessitates two staffing shifts to cover the day, with staffing uplift required for medics, nursing, radiology staff and physiotherapy at a minimum. It will also necessitate extended contract with the company that provide the location, administration, cleaning, security and diagnostic access.

A key dependency is access to onward referral pathways – fracture clinics, orthopaedic and plastic surgery follow up pathways which are under significant pressure from current levels of activity.



Total cost estimate to provide this complete service extended to 11pm 7/7 is €2,966,772

Grade Code Description	Total WTE for Grade Code	Full Year Cost of WTEs
Consultant in Emergency Medicine	0.5	€144,879
Registrar, Emergency Medicine	3	€340,274
Advanced Nurse Practitioner	3	€264,057
Consultant Radiologist	0.5	€151,097
Specialist Registrar, Radiology	1	€120,627
Physiotherapist, Clinical Specialist	1	€82,499
Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon	1	€276,721
Registrar, Surgery	1	€146,497
Consultant Plastic Surgeon	1	€264,495
Registrar, Surgery	1	€146,497
*Location and support services		€537,000
Non -Pay Costs		€492,130
Total		€2,966,772

*Location and support service costs include administrations, cleaning and security staff, access to diagnostic equipment and radiographers and facility fees.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

*The Patient Services Unit
Quality and Patient Safety Directorate
Mater Misericordiae University Hospital
Eccles Street
Dublin 7
D07 R2WY
patientservices@mater.ie*

