

**CC/CC/MC**

**Email: [pgmidwestacute@hse.ie](mailto:pgmidwestacute@hse.ie)**

21<sup>st</sup> August 2023

Mr Cathal Crowe TD,  
Dàil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

**PQ 34584/23**

**To ask the Minister for Health if, with regard to lymphoedema, there are plans to address deficiencies in funding for Ennis General Hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Cathal Crowe**

Dear Deputy Crowe,

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.

Lymphoedema services are provided to the people of Clare at a specialist clinic in Ennis which is run by a multidisciplinary team under the governance of HSE Mid West Community Healthcare. This service opened in 2021 and was the first of its kind in the country providing specialist lymphoedema services in the community in line with the Slaintecare model.

We are also developing lymphoedema services within the acute setting, focused on early detection. The Irish Cancer Society recently launched a three-year pilot project in University Hospital Limerick focusing on the early detection of cancer related lymphoedema.

All breast and gynaecological cancer patients receiving treatment in University Hospital Limerick that are deemed high risk for lymphoedema are referred to the service. Each patient has their lymphoedema index score measured by a certified lymphoedema therapist in the physiotherapy department of the hospital pre and post treatment.

If required, patients are then treated with compression garments, skin care and tailored exercise programmes and monitored for up to two years. The programme also offers education & information sessions, online resources and support to patients throughout their involvement with the project



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Ospidéal na hOllscoile, Luimneach,  
Bóthar Naomh Neasáin, Tuar an Daill, Luimneach V94 F858  
Teil: 061 301111 Facs: 061 301165

University Hospital Limerick,  
St. Nessian's Road, Dooradoyle, Limerick V94 F858  
Tel: 061 301111 Fax: 061 301165

I trust this clarifies the position, please contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colette Cowan'.

**Professor Colette Cowan**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**UL Hospitals Group**

