

General Manager's Office  
University Hospital Waterford,  
Kilcreene Regional Orthopaedic Hospital, Kilkenny  
South/South West Hospital Group  
Email: [uhwpq@hse.ie](mailto:uhwpq@hse.ie)

3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023

Mr Matt Shanahan TD  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 12715 - To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide details of a project (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. Details supplied: In the event that UHW emergency cardiac Cath lab access for PPCI is still being retarded from extending to a 7 day 8 am to 8 pm schedule because of inadequate staff resources will the minister outline exactly what specialties are unavailable to the UHW cardiac suite, what steps have hospital management taken to recruit to these positions, how many interviews have been offered or medical staff reassignment being considered, how long do management believe such delay will end**

Dear Deputy Shanahan

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. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

I can advise that a total of 24 Whole Time Equivalent (WTEs) were approved by the SSWHG in November 2021 for the staffing of the second Cath Lab. The HSE has advised that critical staff required for the opening of the 2nd Cath lab include two Senior Radiographers and three Cardiac Physiologists. Hospital Management/ SSWHG have advised the recruitment of these posts will be completed for the lead time to allow for appropriate testing of equipment. Equipping and fit out of the 2nd Cath Lab is nearing completion.

UHW currently has 4.6 WTE Consultant Cardiologists working in the hospital (1 is Temporary), 3.6 WTE of whom are Interventional Cardiologists. There are 5 approved/funded permanent Consultant posts.

Interviews for the 5th Consultant were completed recently and it is expected that the 5th Consultant will commence duty in July 2023. This will see the 5 permanent posts filled by 4.6 WTEs. UHW will likely retain the additional Temporary Consultant over the summer months, i.e. cover Annual Leave and protect 8am – 8pm PPCI. (Note: as at 23.03.2023 there are 5wte funded approved Consultant Cardiologist posts in UHW)

A Business Case is being progressed for 2 additional Interventional Cardiologists, and associated support staff, to enable expansion of the service beyond the current arrangements

The process to medically equip, complete ICT equipment installation, commission the unit and train and familiarise staff on the new equipment that has been installed will take a period of time to complete. It is anticipated that the expected occupation of the new Cath Lab will be Quarter 2 2023.

I trust the above is satisfactory but if you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



---

**Grace Rothwell**  
**General Manager**  
**University Hospital Waterford**  
**Kilcreene Regional Orthopaedic Hospital**