

27th March 2023.

Deputy Jim O'Callaghan TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2
E: jim.ocallaghan@oireachtas.ie

Re: PQ 13812/23 To ask the Minister for Health the reason MRI scans are performed in St. Vincent's Hospital only between 9am and 5pm on Monday to Friday; if steps will be taken to ensure that MRI scans are available seven days a week; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy O'Callaghan

I refer to the above parliamentary question regarding MRI scanning in St. Vincent's University Hospital.

I can advise that MRI scanning is available in St. Vincent's University Hospital from Monday to Friday during core hours, 8.00am-5.00pm. In addition:

- Inpatient scans are facilitated between 7.00am-8.00am Monday –Thursday;
- Extended day sessions operate from 5.00pm-8.00pm Tuesday to Thursday for scheduled out-patient scans;
- Saturday sessions operate between 7.00am-7.00pm for scheduled out-patient scans;
- Sunday sessions recently commenced from 7.00am-2.00pm for scheduled out-patient scans.

Undertaking out-patient scans outside of core hours increases capacity during these hours for urgent in-patient demand. It should also be noted that during all sessions when qualified, trained MRI Radiographers are on-site, access to MRI for urgent emergency admissions is available on agreement between the referring consultant and the consultant Radiologist on-call.

Any extension of the MRI service is dependent on additional staffing resources being available both from a Radiographer and Radiologist perspective. It should be noted that like most other public hospitals, recruitment of Radiology staff is extremely challenged with levels of staffing, as a result, falling below optimum levels. Recruitment of Radiology staff remains a priority for St. Vincent's University Hospital.

I trust this information is helpful to you.

Yours sincerely,



Michele Tait
Interim Chief Executive Officer.