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PQ-14869/23

Deputy Holly Cairns Dail Eireann Leinster House Kildare Street Dublin 2

To ask the Minister for Health the steps he is taking to make the medical assessment unit in Bantry General Hospital a 24 hours a day service; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Cairns

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.

Current operational hours for the Medical Assessment Unit (MAU) service at Bantry General Hospital (BGH) are Monday – Friday, 9am – 5pm. External to these hours urgent medical admissions are accepted with prior discussion with the services doctor.

Whilst there has been discussions in the past both at local and national level regarding a move to a 24/7 MAU service delivery, this has not progressed and were this to happen there would be a significant requirement to uplift staff across the various disciplines.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely.

Chief Executive Officer