

Deputy Mairead Farrell, T.D.
Houses of the Oireachtas
Kildare St
Dublin 2.

12th February 2024.

Representative Number: 45034/23

Representative Question: *“To ask the Minister for Health the measures that were put in place for patients with complex cancer cases in Portiuncula Hospital prior to the hiring of a consultant radiologist six weeks ago, in terms of their representation at the multidisciplinary meetings at Galway University Hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter”.*

Dear Deputy Farrell,

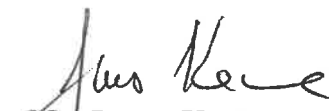
Prior to August 2023, there was a significant number of vacancies in the Radiology Department at Portiuncula University Hospital at Consultant level due to unplanned and unforeseen leave. As a result of this consultant staffing deficit the Radiology Team had to re-prioritise service demands across all radiology specialities with a focus on acute and emergency cases.

Whilst a Consultant Radiologist was not available to attend MDT's during this period there were Consultant and Nursing Specialist staff that participated from Portiuncula University Hospital. All radiology, pathology and laboratory reports were available to support discussion of cases at these meetings.

A Consultant Radiologist was appointed at Portiuncula University Hospital in August 2023 and participation at these Oncology MDTs has recommenced.

I trust that this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely



Mr. James Keane
General Manager