

**CC/VAW/MC**

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

02<sup>nd</sup> October 2023

Ms Violet-Anne Wynne TD,  
Dàil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

**PQ 39738/23**

**To ask the Minister for Health to provide an update with respect to all future plans for development of Ennis Hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Violet-Anne Wynne**

Dear Deputy Wynne,

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.

Ennis Hospital has seen significant investment in recent years and we are committed to investing in all of our Model 2 Hospitals to enhance patient care in line with national policy.

A new outpatients department opened in Ennis in March 2021. Located at an off-site facility on the Kilrush Road, the department has 15 clinical rooms, a phlebotomy bay, four waiting areas, offices and staff changing rooms. During 2022, Ennis OPD saw 16,018 (new and review) patients.

UL Hospitals Group in collaboration with HSE Capital and Estates has identified a space adjacent to the OPD to allow for the expansion of the current facility. This is currently at the early stages of the planning process.

A new theatre upgrade has also been approved for Ennis Hospital as part of the HSE's Capital Programme for 2022. The approved capital budget for this project, which also includes a new sterile services department, is €9.95m. A planning application has been submitted to Clare County Council for these works.

Some additional projects due to take place in Ennis Hospital include:

- The refurbishment of the old outpatients department at Ennis Hospital as a charts management system facility
- The conversion of an existing building into a new health & wellbeing centre for staff
- The refurbishment of the laboratory
- The refurbishment of the kitchenettes on our inpatient wards

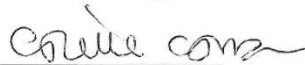
Separately, the doors of a new €2m Injury Unit at Ennis Hospital opened in April 2022, bringing an immediate improvement in the clinical environment and experience for healthcare staff and the thousands of patients who use this service every year.

During 2022, a total of 11,854 patients attended the service there, representing a 25% increase on 2021. Up to the 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023, 9,935 patients attended our Injury Unit at Ennis Hospital.

In addition, the Medical Assessment Unit in Ennis Hospital is also open from 8am-8pm seven days per week. Attendances at Ennis MAU grew from 6,830 in 2021 to 7,768 last year, representing an increase of 14%.

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

Yours sincerely,



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