

CC/MB/MC

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07<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Mr Martin Browne TD  
Dàil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

**PQ 13683/24**

**To ask the Minister for Health if he was aware of the reported removal of five patients at UHL to other healthcare facilities locally in order to free up space during high presentations during March; if he can confirm the veracity of those reports and if such instances were confined to five patients; whether those patients were removed during night-time hours; if he can confirm whether those patients and their families were given adequate notice and information concerning the move; if the relocation of these patients in the manner concerned conforms with best clinical practice; if the matter is being investigated; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Martin Browne**

Dear Deputy Browne,

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.

UL Hospitals Group operates as a single hospital system across multiple sites. As part of this we aim to maximise capacity across all sites and the transfer of patients from the UHL site to the model 2 hospitals in Ennis, Nenagh, St John's and Croom on a daily basis, not only when there is a surge in demand.

Clinicians are responsible for identifying patients whose care can be continued in a Model 2 hospital. Consent to transfer is sought from the patient and families are informed of the decision to transfer. We aim to move patients as early as possible but are dependent on transport availability to do so.

Admitted patients may also be transferred within UHL from a trolley in the ED or on a ward to a designated inpatient bed.

It may occur on occasion that some patients may be moved from ED at night, but we try and avoid doing so if at all possible.

Discharges and transfers within or between hospitals typically take place during the daytime and early evening. Overnight transfers, again with the consent of the patient, are the exception rather than the rule.

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



Working together, caring for you

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Yours sincerely,

*Ms Colette Cowan*

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

