

**MERCY UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL CORK CLG**

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*From the Chief Executive Officer*

**Anne Coyle**



Your Ref

Our Ref:

**PQ 2910/24**

20<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Deputy Pat Buckley, T. D.  
*(via HSE PQ/REPDR system)*

**Re: To ask the Minister for Health to act to stop the closure of paediatric services at Mercy University Hospital until such time as a full and adequate paediatric wing is in place at Cork University Hospital in order to avoid overwhelming services and reducing quality of care and outcomes for children in Cork city area.**

Dear Deputy Buckley,

I refer to your PQ in respect of the above and apologise for the delayed response.

As you are aware, the South/South West Hospital Group (SSWHG) is working with the Mercy University Hospital (MUH) and Cork University Hospital (CUH) to plan the transfer and consolidation of paediatric services from MUH to CUH. The key purpose of this project is to provide a centralised and improved model of care for children in Cork.

The new Paediatric Department development located at CUH, combining both MUH and CUH paediatric departments, will cater for a centralised paediatric service within one location in Cork and in preparation for this transition an extended paediatric clinical governance structure is now led by a Clinical Director for the combined city services. This new development will deliver high quality care for children and will provide much needed paediatric care consistent with Clinical Care Pathways and the Model of Care.

Following the transfer, there will be an increase in capacity for Haematology/ Oncology children, there will be four single rooms' en-suite with air handling units and a treatment room. There will be a single unified general paediatric service with an increase in ward capacity of 12 additional beds. Children attending CUH will benefit from its Paediatric Emergency Department run by Paediatric Emergency Medicine Consultants and specialty nursing staff; access to the extensive paediatric subspecialty consultants/nurse specialists at CUH including respiratory, cardiology, allergy, neurology, neurodisability, diabetes/endocrinology; paediatric surgical specialties and paediatric radiology service etc.

**Registered in Ireland No.:** 353064 **Registered Office:** Mercy University Hospital, Grenville Place, Cork T12 WE28

**Directors:** Mr Neil O'Carroll (Chair), Ms Ann Doherty, Mr Eoghan Lynch, Professor Ciaran Murphy, Ms Edwina Nyhan, Mr Barry O'Brien, Ms Irene O'Donovan, Mr Joe O'Shea, Ms Ann-Marie O'Sullivan, Dr Paddy Ryan, Professor Fergus Shanahan, Mr Jim Woulfe

**Charity No.:** CHY 13963 **Registered Charity Number (RCN):** 20044862

Significant investment and construction is required to accommodate the unified service at CUH. In this regard, work has begun in CUH where the new Haematology/Oncology accommodation, featuring 4 isolation en-suite rooms and a treatment area with air handling units, will be constructed. There will also be an increase of 12 general paediatric beds. The construction timeline is set for 12 weeks, with an additional time to ensure the area is operationally ready.

Until the date of transfer has been confirmed, paediatric services will continue at the Mercy University Hospital (MUH).

I trust this answers your query and please do not hesitate to contact the Office of the CEO should you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Anne Coyle', written in black ink.

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**Anne Coyle**  
**Chief Executive Officer**