



**Galway
University
Hospitals**

Ospidéal na h-Ollscoile Gaillimh
UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL GALWAY
MERLIN PARK UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

General Manager's Office
University Hospital Galway
Newcastle Road
Galway
Tel: (091) 544200

29th May, 2024

REF: PQ24639/24

RE: To ask the Minister for Health the measures being taken to urgently remediate the systemic problem at the cancer care centre at University Hospital Galway, where patients are regularly experiencing delays in cancer treatment, to fulfil its mandate to operate as a centre of excellence; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Michael Fitzmaurice

Dear Deputy Fitzmaurice,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply to you directly in the context of the request for information referenced above.

Please also be advised that the prioritisation of patient for treatment is undertaken by the clinicians in the service.

We acknowledge there are challenges with bed capacity as the Hospital has experienced a sustained state of escalation with our highest ever attendances to the Emergency Department last week. This can have a knock on effect on the beds available in the Hospital at different times of the year and can be unpredictable.

In relation to Oncology and Haematology, these patient groupings have two designated wards. There have been increased numbers also of Haematology and Oncology patients and so these wards can exceed capacity. There are protected beds in each ward including some for elective cases depending on the bed situation on their own wards. The Clinical Teams review the lists of patients for admission and prioritise patients according to clinical need or urgency.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Kane
General Manager
Galway University Hospitals