

## Corporate Affairs Department

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17<sup>th</sup> July 2024

Deputy Brian Stanley

Dáil Éireann

Leinster House

Kildare Street

Dublin 2

**PQ ref 26852/24:** *To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients over 70 and over 80 years, respectively who are deemed by the St. James's Hospital multidisciplinary meetings consensus decisions and the conference on gastro-intestinal as unfit due to age to proceed with clinical treatment in the early stages of cancer that is, stage 1 and stage 2 in the years 2018 to date.*

**PQ ref 26853/24:** *To ask the Minister for Health in relation to the decisions of the multidisciplinary meetings at St. James's Hospital, under gastro-intestinal conference the number of patients over 70 and 80 years, respectively who were advised that radiotherapy or chemotherapy is not suitable in each of the years from 2018 to date.*

**PQ ref 26856/24:** *To ask the Minister for Health in respect of multidisciplinary meetings at St. James Hospital, if it is the normal procedure to inform patients by letter if their cancer cannot be treated and need palliative care; the protocols that are in place to prevent this reoccurring.*

**PQ ref 26844/24:** *To ask the Minister for Health if minutes are taken at the multidisciplinary meetings at St. James Hospital; if those minutes are published; and is there a record of attendees.*

Dear Deputy Stanley,

The multidisciplinary team (MDT) process is very robust and treatment decisions, regardless of the patient's age, are agreed by the specialist multidisciplinary team dependent on the findings presented at MDM (multidisciplinary meetings).

A cancer MDM provides a forum in which the relevant multidiscipline specialists discuss each patient's clinical presentation, their radiological, histopathological and other relevant findings, in order to generate an appropriate individual treatment plan that is based on current best practices.

All patients newly diagnosed/managed in St James's Hospital are referred to the MDM to decide on a treatment plan. The outcome of each case discussed is recorded and inputted into our electronic patient record, and the plan of care is discussed and agreed with the patient by the clinical team.

Yours sincerely,



Ms Aisling Collins

Interim Chief Operations Officer