

CC/CC/MC**Email: pqmidwestacute@hse.ie**10th April 2024Mr Cathal Crowe TD
Dàil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2**PQ 11405/24****To ask the Minister for Health if he can provide full detail on the safety issues that currently make the establishment of a 24-hour accident and emergency unit in Ennis General Hospital unviable. -Cathal Crowe**

Dear Deputy Crowe,

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.

Government policy titled 'Securing the Future of Smaller Hospitals: a Framework for Development', published in February 2013 has shaped the future of Nenagh, Ennis and St John's and reaffirmed the integral role these hospitals have to play in the future growth of healthcare in the Mid-West region: in the provision of ambulatory care, chronic disease management, day surgery, endoscopy, Injury Units, Medical Assessment Units and much more.

Among the key objectives of the reconfiguration programme, as set out in the (Teamwork/Horwath) consultants report, was the centralisation of acute and emergency medical and surgical services, including trauma, in UHL. The programme also provided for the centralisation and expansion of critical care capacity for the region in Limerick; an improved ambulance service for the region and, crucially, the development of appropriate services in the smaller hospitals (urgent care centres/injury units, medical assessment units, day surgery, radiology etc).

The aim of the reforms was to ensure that patient safety was improved across the region by delivering care in the right place and by the right teams. This required an upgrading of diagnostic, outpatient, endoscopy and day services in our model 2 hospitals.

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



**Ospidéal OL
UL Hospitals**

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Yours sincerely,

Colette Cowan

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



University Hospital Limerick is a member of **UL Hospitals Group** which also comprises; Nenagh Hospital, Ennis Hospital, Croom Orthopaedic Hospital, University Maternity Hospital Limerick and St. John's Hospital (voluntary).