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30th September 2024

Deputy Sean Fleming

Dáil Éireann

Leinster House

Kildare Street

Dublin 2

Re: PQ ref 34442/24 – *To ask the Minister for Health if funding will be provided to a hospital (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

Dear Deputy Fleming,

In the context of co-location, Children's Health Ireland (CHI) and St James's Hospital have a unique opportunity to design and deliver a high quality, patient-centric transitional nephrology service as envisaged by the Future Health strategic framework and the Definitive Business Case for the National Children's Hospital (February, 2017). This will be a model of care that both delivers for patients and sets the standard for transitional care pathways across all adult hospitals.

The St James's Nephrology team developed a business case with Dr Ciara Martin, Clinical Programme Lead for Children and Young Adults and with CHI-based paediatric nephrology colleagues. This business case aims to establish a dedicated transitional nephrology service between St James's Hospital and the National Children's Hospital (NCH) and also to build a multidisciplinary team at St James's Hospital adjacent to the new NCH to receive and care for young adults transitioning to adult nephrology care in a patient-centric and age-appropriate manner. This is designed to pre-empt and mitigate many of the adverse outcomes experienced by this population of patients and their families.

St James's Hospital is already receiving an increasing number of referrals from CHI across a wide variety of specialities. The establishment of this service will achieve both clinical and non-clinical

benefits. Optimal transitional care has been shown to deliver better disease control, treatment concordance and attendance. This slows progression of chronic kidney disease, results in fewer hospitalisations and is cost-saving. Empowering and supporting independent management of the young person's healthcare leads to reduced disability and reduced burden on health and social services. Most importantly, the goal of optimal transitional care is that young people in Ireland with chronic kidney disease reach their full potential. St James's continues to await the outcome of the business plan submitted to the HSE in respect of this service initiative.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aisling Collins', with a stylized, cursive script.

Ms Aisling Collins

Interim Chief Operations Officer