



FSS Bhaile Átha Cliath
agus an Oirdheiscirt
HSE Dublin and South East



St. Luke's General Hospital
Carlow - Kilkenny

Freshford Rd
Kilkenny
R95 FY71

Telephone 056 7785000

4th February 2025

Deputy Peter "Chap" Cleere T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2
E: peterchap.cleere@oireachtas.ie

Re: PQ no: 2533/25 – Investment in St Luke's Hospital, Kilkenny – St Luke's Hospital, Kilkenny

Dear Deputy Cleere

I refer to the recent representation made on behalf to St Luke's Hospital, Kilkenny, which has been referred for direct response.

To ask the Minister for Health if urgent investment will be made to improve waiting lists and bed accommodation numbers, availability and accident and emergency overcrowding and waiting times at St. Luke's Hospital, Kilkenny, by providing for additional medical staff at all levels there; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Peter 'Chap' Cleere

I have had this matter examined and can confirm that we have a critical issue regarding medical and nursing vacancies across our hospital. In order to improve waiting lists and bed accommodation numbers, availability and accident and emergency overcrowding and waiting times at St. Luke's Hospital, Kilkenny, Patient Flow is essential. A focus on Same Day Emergency Care (SDEC) by an additional one Emergency Department (ED) consultant and two Acute Medical Assessment Unit (AMAU) consultants and two Advanced Nurse Practitioners (ANPs) would support a Medical Short Stay Unit (MSSU) for admissions from AMAU. A Clinical Nurse Manager (CNM) 3 and a Practice Facilitator for our Paediatric Department is essential as the numbers in our Paediatric Department are increasing rapidly. Our current total of vacancies across all disciplines in St Luke's Hospital, Kilkenny is **207.6 WTE**.

To further support patient flow and deliver safe patient care, significant planning of developments is in progress to include:

- **Decant Build (Enabling Works)** Full Submission to Capital & Estates April 2024. This area is in the developmental zone of the Dolmen Wing 86 bed ward block that is necessary to increase capacity.
- **CT 2** – Old CT Room Upgrade with new CT machine/ventilation system - Full Capital submission complete '24. Awaiting decision. This is vital to support patient flow. This second CT will result in no down-time and allow specialised tests to be completed onsite, reducing the need for patients to be transferred to another hospital which results in long waiting times for appointments.
- **Dolmen Wing**- 86 bed accommodation block which includes 14 Critical Care beds, 72 single rooms, Laboratory and Pharmacy.

St Luke's General Hospital Carlow/Kilkenny is a Tobacco and E-Cigarette Free Campus

- **Out-patient Department**-Full Capital Submission to Capital & Estates January 2023. 30 additional Outpatient clinical rooms. This will enhance waiting list initiatives as capacity is a factor impeding progression.
- **Acute Floor Extension**- To support increasing numbers and incorporating the Paediatrics Emergency Department within the Acute Floor.
- **Multi story carpark** – Significant challenge with parking for patients. This will be a part of the Dolmen Wing submission.

I trust this information is helpful to you.

Yours sincerely


Niamh Lacey
Hospital Manager
St Luke's Hospital, Kilkenny