

Private & Confidential

5th February 2025

Deputy Michael Cahill
Dáil Éireann, Leinster House,
Kildare St, Dublin 2

Dear Deputy Cahill,

Ref PQ 2930/25 : **To ask the Minister for Health to address the chronic situation that exists at University Hospital Kerry accident and emergency department by providing a new 96 bed block in addition to the 39 beds already in train there and take into consideration the fact that the hospital has seen an 18% increase in emergency department presentations during 2024 on 2023 numbers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Michael Cahill**

The above referred Parliamentary Question on various matters at University Hospital Kerry, has been submitted to this office, for response :

Response provided by University Hospital Kerry:

At the outset and for the purposes of clarity, presentations to the Emergency Department at University Hospital Kerry have in fact increased by **6%** from 2023 to 2024, rather than the 18% referred to in the PQ submitted.

In line with the Acute Inpatient Hospital Bed Capacity Plan announced by the Government in May 2024, a significant bed capacity expansion portfolio is underway at University Hospital Kerry :

- ❖ Reconfiguration of Management and Administration corridor within UHK, to create nine acute Inpatient beds - The tender process for construction has issued with construction envisaged to commence circa February 2025. Enabling works are presently in progress. A provisional hand back date prior to commissioning and fit out, of May 2025, is indicated.
- ❖ Former Blood Science Laboratory Space – Two options present a) Reconfiguration of former laboratory area into 9/10 acute inpatient beds 2025 b) Extend development onto roof area bringing the total additional acute inpatient beds in Blood Science laboratory area to approximately 30. Feasibility planning in terms of these options is underway as at February 2025.
- ❖ Bed Block – Project Brief has now been completed for 108 bed block to be situated to south of ED/Maternity. This is currently with the design team for review.

I trust this response is to your satisfaction; should you have any further queries however, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Mary Fitzgerald
General Manager University Hospital Kerry