

Private & Confidential

12th February 2025

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

Dear Deputy Cahill,

Ref PQ 2934/25 : **To ask the Minister for Health to return as a matter of extreme urgency, staffing levels at University Hospital Kerry to December 2023 levels across all disciplines, occupational therapists, physio and speech and language therapists along with clerical staffing are particularly challenging; and if she 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 University Hospital Kerry, we remain committed to maintaining and increasing staffing complement throughout the hospital.

Whereas the HSE National embargo on recruitment October 2023 - July 2024 impacted upon staffing levels at UHK, notwithstanding this, implementation of the HSE National Pay and Numbers Strategy (July '24) and specifically the regional workforce post prioritisation process has since, enabled the substantial increasing of WTE complement at UHK.

- ❖ Approval received for approximately 184 posts hospital wide, via the post prioritisation process, since its commencement in 2024.
- ❖ The above approvals comprise Clerical, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy and Speech & Language Therapy posts, in addition to posts across multiple other departments and specialties at UHK.

The senior leadership team of University Hospital Kerry, continue to work closely and in tandem with local line managers, to prioritise and fill UHK posts through the Regional post prioritisation process and will continue to do so, as required in 2025.

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