

**Private & Confidential**

6<sup>th</sup> February 2025

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

Dear Deputy Cahill,

Ref PQ 2936/25 :

**To ask the Minister for Health if general surgery and elective orthopaedics will be retained at University Hospital Kerry (details supplied); 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:**

Over the past year, the trajectory in terms of Orthopaedic medical manpower at University Hospital Kerry is one of expansion. UHK has been successful in acquiring approval for two additional permanent Consultant Orthopaedic posts. This translates to an increase of 66% in permanent Orthopaedic Consultant manpower at the hospital, over and above what has been in place heretofore and historically. At the time of this PQ, the first of these two new posts is filled in a permanent capacity and the second permanent post is also filled, in a locum capacity at the moment.

Similarly with regard to General Surgery at UHK, the trajectory is also one of expansion - The cohort of three permanent Consultant General Surgeon posts has increased to four (a 25% uplift) in recent years. Furthermore a permanent dedicated Consultant Urologist has been recruited to the hospital in 2024.

The above by way of background context to surgical services at UHK whereby presently there are no plans in train to divert elective surgery from UHK.

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

**Yours sincerely,**

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**Mary Fitzgerald**  
**General Manager**  
**University Hospital Kerry**