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Date: 25th February 2025

PQ – 4221/25

Deputy Jerry Buttimer
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

To ask the Minister for Health the reason CUH is taking up the beds needed for dental treatment in Mallow General Hospital and subsequently dental services are being cancelled for patients with disabilities who require urgent treatment under general anaesthetic and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Buttimer

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Mallow General Hospital as part of the South West Region and the South/South West Hospital Group admits patients requiring acute hospital admission within the Cork Kerry region.

There are different sources of admission to the hospital, most commonly but not limited to, via GP referral to the Medical Assessment Unit, via Ambulance transfer by the National Ambulance Service and via inter hospital transfer from other hospitals in the region.

In January 2025 the demand for inpatient capacity was significant within the region and all facilities were utilised to optimise patient care.

In accordance with the escalation policy within the region, and based on risk assessment of non-urgent / non- cancer related / non-time dependent surgical cases, a ward typically used for elective day case admissions at Mallow General Hospital was utilised for inpatient admissions for ten days.

After the ten days the ward reverted back to accepting elective day cases.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Ms. Deirdre O'Keefe
Interim Chief Executive Officer