



20<sup>th</sup> March 2025

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

**Re: PQ no: 12344/25 – Enhancing Services – St Luke's Hospital, Kilkenny**

Dear Deputy Cleere

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

**To ask the Minister for Health the way it is planned to enhance services at St. Luke's Hospital, Kilkenny; the number of additional nursing staff that have been taken on at the hospital over the past five years, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Peter 'Chap' Cleere**

I have had this matter examined and confirm that the following is planned here in St Luke's Hospital, Kilkenny to enhance services:

- **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.
- **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.



In answer to the second part of the PQ in relation to additional nursing staff over the past five years, please see table below:

| Staff Category         | Nursing & Midwifery |                   |
|------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Census WTE<br>FEB 2025 | 558.86              | Increase of 8.81  |
| Census WTE<br>FEB 2024 | 550.05              | Increase of 43.27 |
| Census WTE<br>FEB 2023 | 506.78              | Increase of 51.31 |
| Census WTE<br>FEB 2022 | 455.47              | Increase of 21.70 |
| Census WTE<br>FEB 2021 | 433.77              |                   |

I trust this information is helpful to you.

Yours sincerely

Niamh Lacey  
Hospital Manager  
St Luke's Hospital, Kilkenny