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2nd April 2025

Deputy Richard O'Donoghue
Dàil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

PQ 12635/25

Dear Deputy O'Donoghue,

I refer to your correspondence dated 13th March 2025.

Limerick was confirmed as one of five locations for a surgical hub in December 2022. Planning permission for the development on the Scoil Carmel site was granted in May 2024.

Construction commenced in January 2025 and demolition works are currently well advanced. The indicative operational date for the Limerick Surgical Hub is Q4 2026.

The new surgical hub will operate as a satellite of UHL, with key staff moving between the sites. It is envisaged that the surgical hub will initially see gynaecology, ENT and urology patients. As this is a new service, a number of additional staff across all disciplines will be recruited, the number of additional staff required is currently being finalised.

The Sláintecare Report (2017) calls for an end to long waiting times and sets out ambitious access targets. The report highlights the need for greater separation between emergency and elective care in order to create the ringfenced elective capacity to support the achievement of Sláintecare access targets.

The surgical hubs projects are part of a broader elective capacity programme which aims to sustainably improve access to elective care. The Limerick development will provide for two new operating theatres and two new procedure rooms in a state-of-the-art facility. Estimated construction costs for the Limerick Surgical Hub are approximately €60 million. The overall project cost is approximately €86 million.

I trust this clarifies the position. Please contact me if you have any further queries.

Kind Regards,

IAN CARTER
CEO Mid West Acute and Older People Services
HSE Mid West