

Private & Confidential

27th March 2025

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

Dear Deputy Cahill,

Ref PQ 14800/25 :

To ask the Minister for Health if a new maternity unit will be provided at University Hospital Kerry as there are clinical risks to both mother and baby due to the location of the existing maternity unit, as it is too far from theatre there and is a major health and safety issue; 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:

As you will be aware development of a DCP [Development Control Plan] for University Hospital Kerry will guide infrastructural developments at the hospital, into the medium to long term future. Creation of a DCP is a staged process to ultimately deliver a whole hospital functional brief (including Maternity). initial site visit and meeting with the senior leadership team of UHK took place on 18th March 2025.

UHK's New Maternity build is at re-appraisal stage and capital submission is under development at present. It is envisaged that the proposed new Maternity Unit will be situated within closer proximity to the operating theatres. With regard to the prevailing interim status - To ensure timely and un-inhibited transfer of emergency obstetric cases to theatre, University Hospital Kerry has a dedicated Lift for Obstetric use only. This practical solution allows that, upon delivering obstetric patients to theatre, the lift immediately and automatically re-sets to the ground floor for the next patient.

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