

Private & Confidential

26th May 2025

Cllr Michael Cahill,
Dail Eireann, Leinster House,
Kildare St, Dublin 2

Rep Number: REPDR/25/15084

Dear Cllr Cahill,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) – South West (Cork & Kerry) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following representation, which was submitted to this office for response.

REPDR:

To ask the Minister for Health to urgently address the infrastructure needs at University Hospital Kerry (details supplied). -Michael Cahill 96 bed block in additional to 39 beds already in train (ED presentations ↑18 % on 2023 numbers). Permanent Oncology / Haematology build (Patients numbers requiring chemotherapy is increasing year on year , over 5000 patients treated in UHK last year and facility does not have capacity to cope with increased demand . Will reduce need for Kerry people to travel to Cork). New maternity unit required due to clinical risks to mother and baby due to current location of unit -too far from theatre . Sixth operation theatre - to facilitate Obs/Gynae demands . Ambulatory care block to include Endoscopy , Surgical and Medical Day Units , Outpatient Dept and Radiology . Office accommodation – due to the increase . Additional parking for staff

University Hospital Kerry Infrastructure;

- ❖ Bed block : Construction is at an advanced stage [along UHK’s Admin corridor] which will give rise to nine additional acute inpatient beds shortly. A further 30 beds will be delivered in two phases at the former Blood Science Laboratory Space [7 beds towards the end of 2025] and extending out onto roof over OPD x 23 beds, during 2026. Additionally, an initial capital funding approval for the 108 bed block has also been granted.
- ❖ Permanent Oncology / Haematology build : The submission for permanent Oncology / Haematology build has now been accepted onto the National Capital Programme [May 2025]. Capital submission will now progress to HSE – PRG [Property Review Group], for funding approval.
- ❖ New maternity unit : 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.
- ❖ Sixth operation theatre - Revision of capital submission underway.
- ❖ Ambulatory care block to include Endoscopy , Surgical and Medical Day Units , Outpatient Dept and Radiology will form component of UHK’s Development Control Plan which is progressing with model of care workshops for clinical and functional areas commencing week of 19th May.
- ❖ Office accommodation Off-site admin/office accommodation secured & fully operational. To facilitate reconfiguration of the hospital’s Admin block into Inpatient beds, an additional cohort of staff were relocated in Q4,2024 to Rathass building. Within UHK campus, Offices on Medical Block completely refurbished in 2024. Longer term staff accommodation will be considered with the DCP under development presently.

- ❖ Staff Parking : Ongoing consideration to creation of an additional 124 spaces. Longer term, DCP will incorporate comprehensive planning for parking.

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