



Peadar Tóibín, T.D.
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2
D02 XR20

19th May 2025

RE: PQ ref 22362/25

RE: To ask the Minister For Health the reason the ‘family rooms’ on each of the three main wards in Naas Hospital have been repurposed as ward extensions; if there are plans to reintroduce family rooms into the hospital; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Tóibín,

The temporary repurposing of the family rooms on three wards at Naas General Hospital (NGH) was necessary during a period of surge and formed part of our Winter Escalation Plan. This action was necessary to address a significant increase in the number of patients requiring acute inpatient care, which exceeded the hospital's available bed capacity at that time.

The temporary use of these rooms as clinical spaces mitigated risk and ensured the safe delivery of care during times of exceptional demand. This approach is in line with national guidance on surge planning and was intended as a short-term solution to address immediate pressures.

We have returned these rooms to their intended function as family spaces.

The temporary use of family rooms during surge is a risk-based response while long-term solutions are being pursued through the capital development programme. These plans reflect a commitment to addressing capacity issues in a sustainable manner.

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

Yours sincerely,

Kieran McDonald
General Manager