

Mark Wall
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

27th May 2025

Re: PQ 26935/25

Dear Minister Wall,

With reference to PQ received: If following bariatric surgery or significant weight loss is brachioplasty (arm lift), thigh lift, or abdominoplasty (tummy tuck) is available through the HSE referral following significant weight loss.

Body contouring surgery (removal of loose skin on abdomen, thighs, arms following significant weight loss), is an important intervention for improvement of physical and mental health and quality of life. In this context, it is not a cosmetic procedure and should be accessible through the HSE, where appropriate following assessment by a plastic surgeon.

Patients attending SCH/SVUH COM have been unable to access this surgery for many years, following retirement of the plastic surgeon who performed this surgery. In order to improve access to this surgery, a plastic surgeon with a sub-specialty interest in performing this surgery needs to be appointed in Level 4 Obesity Management centres (currently SCH/SVUH and UHG).

Yours sincerely,

Lorraine O'Toole

Interim General Manager

St Columcille's Hospital Loughlinstown