



Integrated Health Area Manager, Galway Roscommon

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22<sup>nd</sup> Sept., 2025.

Deputy Michael Fitzmaurice T.D.,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare St.,  
Dublin 2.

**RE: PQ 44963/25 - To ask the Minister for Health if consideration has been given to a shared permanent governance structure for maternity services between Portiuncula Maternity Hospital and Galway University Hospital; if there have been any objections to this; and if she will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Fitzmaurice,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position:

The HSE West and North West has an established clinical network for Women's and Children's in 2019. This is a regional management structure under which clinical services are organised across the hospitals in the HSE West and North West Region. This includes Portiuncula University Hospital (PUH) and Galway University Hospital (GUH). The network is a shared governance structure that adopts a collaborative approach to delivering care, with hospitals and services collaborating to enhance quality and patient outcomes. A key focus of the network is on standardising care, improving access, advocating for resources, integrated care, and quality and patient safety. The network has worked closely with PUH in all aspects of clinical care since 2018 and joint processes have clearly been in place since that time.

An integrated Clinical Director model, one Clinical Director (CD) covering PUH and GUH, was in place from November 2021 until June 2024. The CD took a lead on integrated working across the two units through joint meetings, cross-site visits, education and training. The integrated CD model was recognised as a challenge from the outset. There were elements of risk due to the distance between the two units and the associated split of the Clinical Director's time across both. It was not possible to maintain a Clinical Director presence on the PUH site for all of the week which left a vacuum in governance on the site. Despite the Clinical Director's presence on the site 1 day per week. The model did not lend itself to consistent on the ground leadership, and as a result gaps in governance emerged. Following prolonged consideration between the two sites, the Women's and Children's Managed Clinical and Academic Network (MCAN), and the Saolta Hospital Group Executive team, it was agreed in late 2023 to revert to the model of having a Clinical Director on both sites.



An external management team (EMT) for maternity services has been in place in Portiuncula University Hospital (PUH) since 27<sup>th</sup> January 2025. This intervention was put in place in response to a high number of serious incidents within the service since late 2023. This team remains in place.

I hope this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

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**Ann Cosgrove,**  
**Integrated Health Area Manager, Galway Roscommon,**  
**HSE West and North West.**