

11th April 2019

PQ 13647/19 To ask the Minister for Health the corrective actions regarding failures of the HSE with regard to taking every reasonable precaution to prevent persons from contracting infectious diseases while in Galway University Hospital around the time of the tuberculosis outbreak at the hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

-Catherine Connolly

Dear Deputy Connolly


The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply to you directly in the context of the request for information referenced above, the following outlines the situation.

Galway University Hospitals has in place the necessary and recommended precautions and guidance to prevent persons from contracting infectious diseases. The hospital has in place;

- Policies, procedures and guidelines for the prevention and control of infection within Galway University Hospitals. There are also specific policies, procedures and guidelines available for example Tuberculosis Guidelines.
- Education on infectious diseases and the prevention of these is delivered by the relevant departments and staff are encouraged to attend these education sessions.
- There are Committees and other working groups that review standards within the hospital setting for example Hygiene Committee.
- Regular hygiene and environmental audits are carried out in line with HIQA National Standards.
- GUH has in place an Infection Prevention and Control Team and an Infectious Diseases Team which are available to provide guidance and support as required.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely



Chris Kane
General Manager
Galway University Hospitals