

CC/WOD/MC

Email: pgmidwestacute@hse.ie

14th November 2023

Mr Willie O'Dea TD,
Dàil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 48364/23

To ask the Minister for Health when the new 96-bed block in UHL is going to be completed and ready to accept patients; how many of the beds will go towards increasing existing capacity and not replace existing beds; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Willie O'Dea

Dear Deputy O'Dea

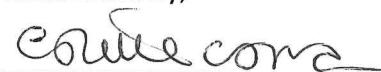
The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Work commenced on the first 96-Bed ward block at University Hospital Limerick in September 2022. It is currently envisaged that the construction phase will be complete by Q1 2025. Once handed over by the contractors, the new build will need to be equipped and commissioned and staff trained following the completion of a recruitment campaign. We anticipate that this much-needed additional bed capacity for the MidWest will become operational in mid-2025.

Approximately half of the beds will be new beds for inpatients while the remainder will be replacement beds allowing us to close or refurbish some of the more outdated inpatient accommodation on the UHL site. This will allow for greater compliance with national guidelines and international best practice on infection prevention and control.

I trust this clarifies the position, please contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Colette Cowan
Chief Executive Officer
UL Hospitals Group