

Corporate Affairs Department

Chief Executive Office

Tel: +353 1 4103833

+353 1 4162521

Email: reps@stjames.ie

25th April 2024

Deputy Brian Stanley

Dáil Éireann

Leinster House

Kildare Street

Dublin 2

Re: PQ ref 14567/24 – *To ask the Minister for Health in respect of multidisciplinary meetings (MDMs) at St. James's Hospital with those deemed unfit over 70 years to undergo treatment through radiotherapy or chemotherapy how is this assessed; how this is communicated to the patient; and if protocols are in place to regulate how patients are informed they are unfit for treatment due to age, from each of the conferences held at St. James's Hospital.*

PQ ref 14568/24 - *To ask the Minister for Health in respect of MDMs at St. James's Hospital how oversight is ensured for the application of the ethical treatment of the elderly in census decisions; if there is any independent review; and if there are any publications to demonstrate analyses of ethical treatment for the elderly by MDMs in decision making.*

PQ ref 14569/24 - *To ask the Minister for Health in respect of MDMs at St. James's Hospital, if it is normal procedure to inform patients their cancer cannot be treated and need palliative care by letter; and what specific protocols are in place to prevent this from occurring.*

PQ ref 14570/24 - *To ask the Minister for Health in respect of MDMs at St. James's Hospital and the gastro-intestinal conference and a census decision on a patient, how dissenting opinions or views are acknowledged; and if patients are informed of these opinions.*

PQ ref 14571/24 - *To ask the Minister for Health in respect of MDMs at St. James's Hospital, how the oversight is conducted of the Ethical Guidelines of the Medical Council; and how is this reported.*



Dear Deputy Stanley,

A cancer MDM provides a forum in which the relevant multidiscipline specialists discuss each patient's clinical presentation, their radiological, histopathological and other relevant findings in order to generate an appropriate individual treatment plan that is based on current best practices. All patients newly diagnosed/managed in St James's Hospital are referred to the MDM to decide on a treatment plan. The outcome of each case discussed is recorded and inputted into our electronic patient record and the plan of care is communicated to the patient by the clinical team. The MDT process is very robust and treatment decisions, regardless of the patient's age are agreed by the specialist multidisciplinary team dependent on the findings presented at MDM.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Aisling Collins

Interim Chief Operations Officer