

20<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Deputy Marc MacSharry, T.D.,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.  
D02 XR20

**Re: PQ ref 8121/24 – Ballyshannon Community Hospital**

To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an update with regard to the staffing of the new community hospital in Ballyshannon; if he is aware that the delay in the opening of this state of the art facility is serving to put undue pressure on medical professionals and facilities in other hospitals in the north west region; and if he will make a statement on the matter.- Marc MacSharry

Dear Deputy Mac Sharry,

The HSE is pleased to confirm that the new Ballyshannon Community Hospital will open today, the 20<sup>th</sup> of February 2024.

The new Ballyshannon Community Hospital built at a cost of €36.7 million, located at the site of the old Sheil Hospital features 52 long stay beds, 20 short stay beds providing convalescence, rehabilitation, respite and palliative care, 8 Dementia specific assessment beds and a Day Hospital Service. HIQA have conferred full registration on the facility.

The new hospital will provide a full range of supporting professional services for the older person in the South Donegal, North Leitrim and North Sligo areas. The following professional services, via Primary Care, will be available to residents and patients to support their physical and social wellbeing; GP, Pharmacy, Speech and Language Therapist, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Dietician, Podiatry, Tissue Viability Nurse Specialist, Dentistry, Audiology, Clinical Nurse Specialist Dementia, Psychiatry of Old Age and Social Worker, Advocacy and Spiritual services. The new community hospital also features wildflower rooftop gardens, a collection of books spanning three centuries including some belonging to the late Dr.Simon Sheil, and a new coffee dock for patients and visitors.

The 1<sup>st</sup> phase of the opening of the new facility is for the existing residents in the community Nursing Unit based at the Rock to transfer to this new facility, which will allow for care to be given in the most appropriate modern health care environment which will benefit their needs and promote a high quality of life. The quality of life of the 26 residents, who are very much looking forward to the new facility, has always been of paramount importance and significance to HSE management.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of opening will include the commissioning of additional beds within the facility which will take place following a pre-planned re-engagement of the parties at the Workplace Relations Commission(WRC) in the coming weeks.



In preparation for the opening, successful recruitment campaigns have been ran at both local and national level to ensure that the appropriate staff grades are available to fill the approved posts within the Service. It must be noted that the staffing complement attached to the hospital is significant and will certainly contribute to the wider social and economic development of the community in South Donegal, North Leitrim & North Sligo area.

An official opening of the new Ballyshannon Community Hospital will take place at a later date as yet to be arranged.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank Morrison', written over a horizontal line.

**Frank Morrison**  
**Head of Service, Older Persons**  
**CH CDLMS**