

CC/CC/MC

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**31st May 2024**

Mr Cathal Crowe TD  
Dàil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

**PQ 10668/24**

**To ask the Minister for Health if the recommendation contained within the HIQA report resulting from the unannounced inspection of the emergency department at University Hospital Limerick (details supplied) has been acted upon; if so, the details of when it was started and when it will be completed; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**Details supplied: (inspection date: March 15th 2022) to explore the provision of a Model 3 hospital to support the Model 4 at University Hospital Limerick and; (ii) provide an alternative across the mid west region for higher patient acuity and build capacity**

Dear Deputy Crowe,

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.

The upgrading of any of our Model 2 Hospitals to a Model 3 is a policy decision and as such not a matter for UL Hospitals Group.

We welcome the announcement by Minister Donnelly on May 9<sup>th</sup> that he has requested HIQA to lead a review into urgent and emergency care capacity in the region to determine whether a second Emergency Department (ED) is needed.

The review will consider the case for a second Emergency Department for the region, in light of demographic changes in recent years and ongoing pressures at the Emergency Department at University Hospital Limerick (UHL). We look forward to contributing to this review process. We expect that any recommendations arising from same would require all stakeholders to contribute to a cost-benefit analysis of the options.

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

Yours Sincerely



**Ms Colette Cowan**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**UL Hospitals Group**