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Deputy Martin Browne
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Dublin 2.

PQ 20683/24 - To ask the Minister for Health to provide a detailed account of the work to be undertaken by the support team recently announced to address the current pressures on health services in the mid-west region; to provide any terms of reference under which they operate; to outline how their role relates to UHL, Ennis Hospital, St John's Hospital and Nenagh Hospital individually; if the team is examining the role and the current circumstances relating to community health care provision and the nature of the work; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Martin Browne

Dear Deputy Browne,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following response outlines the current position.

The HSE is conscious of the pressures in various hospitals regarding trolleys for patients waiting admission. This is recognised by the HSE as a key safety concern and a variety of ongoing assurances are necessary in such situations. While challenged in a small number of sites we are particularly so in Limerick at this time. Patient flow involves the whole of the Health Service and we are using our own internal mechanisms to support the Mid-West Region for the next number of weeks. A support team with expertise is now working with the Regional Executive Officer and her team in Community Healthcare, Public Health and UL Hospitals. The aims of the support team are twofold; in the first instance, de-escalation of the site and secondly to identify improvement actions that can be applied to support the site.

The team is made up of : Ms Grace Rothwell, National Director – Ms. Orla Kavanagh Director of Nursing & Integration at Waterford University Hospital and retired Emergency Medicine Consultant Dr Fergal Hickey.

The support team has recently met the CEO of the HSE to update him and a more comprehensive engagement is scheduled for three weeks time.

Yours sincerely

Sara Maxwell

Office of the Chief Executive Officer