

Deputy John Paul Phelan T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2
E: johnpaul.phelan@oireachtas.ie

Re: PQ no: 22239/24 -The cardiac rehabilitation unit in St Luke's Hospital, Kilkenny

Dear Deputy Phelan

I refer to the recent representation made to St Luke's Hospital, Kilkenny, which has been referred for direct response.

To ask the Minister for Health the reason a service (details supplied) which was suspended during the Covid lockdown has not recommenced; if there is a timeline for reopening the service; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -John Paul Phelan

I have had this matter examined and am advised that The Exercise and Education programme for Cardiac Rehabilitation Programme was suspended from March 2020 due to Covid, during this time the gym was refurbished in St. Luke's General Hospital which allowed us to resume the 8-week exercise programme in August 2023.

Due to unforeseen events the dedicated physiotherapist left the post in Cardiac Rehabilitation Department last December and with current embargo on recruitment this post remains unfilled.

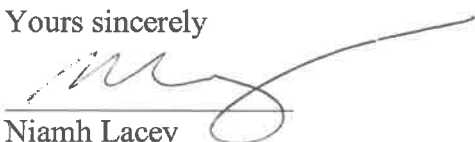
To resume the service, in collaboration with our community colleagues, it has been possible to deliver 50% of the Exercise and Education programmes that we were delivering pre Covid running two programmes as opposed to four programmes. Unfortunately, until the full service is resumed a waiting list will be in place which is currently five months.

As a result of the recruitment embargo, we have a deficit of service from the Dietetic Department leaving no input into the programme, Also the Cardiac Rehab Staff nurse post due to retirement has been filled on a temporary basis.

We are continuing to deliver the online Cardiac Rehabilitation education programme which is open to all our cardiac patients. We invite all patient referrals into our group education introduction sessions and then follow-up with a Nurse consultation telephone call. We continue to provide a reduced service to our cardiac rehab patients as a result of the recruitment embargo.

I trust this information is helpful to you.

Yours sincerely



Niamh Lacey
Hospital Manager
St Luke's Hospital, Kilkenny