



19 November 2024

Mr Cathal Crowe TD
Fianna Fáil
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2
e. cathal.crowe@oireachtas.ie

Re. To ask the Minister for Health the current full-year cost of trauma services in Galway, Dublin & Cork

Dear Deputy Crowe

I refer to your Parliamentary Question above which has been referred to HSE National Office for Trauma Services (NOTS) for response.

The National Trauma Strategy, published in February 2018, recommends the development of a Trauma System for Ireland, where trauma-relevant facilities and services are networked and coordinated in the care of injured patients along standardised pathways.

Mater Misericordiae University Hospital (MMUH) Dublin and Cork University Hospital

Phase 1 of the Trauma System implementation focused on the initial development of major trauma services at the Major Trauma Centres (MTCs) in the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital (MMUH) Dublin and Cork University Hospital (CUH). This phase prioritised the most injured patients benefiting from timely access to quality trauma care, either directly or through efficient secondary transfer. With the launch of major trauma services at the MMUH and CUH in 2023, the fundamental components of the Trauma System are now in place.

Funding of €11.3m was provided in the 2021/2022 National Service Plans for full-year costs to recruit additional staff at the two MTCs. In 2024, NOTS secured additional funding in the National Service Plan 2025, as set out in Table 1 below, towards the completion of Phase I at both MTCs.

Table 1: MMUH and CUH - New Service Development Funding

	2021	2022	2023*	2024*	2025	2026 (Full year costs)
MMUH	€5.7m	€2.6m	-	-	€0.75m	€1.5m
CUH	€0.3m	€2.7m	-	-	€0.6m	€1.2m
			-	-	€1.35m	€2.7m

*No New Service Development funding received.



Trauma Unit with Specialist Services (TUSS) at University Hospital Galway (UHG)

The designation of UHG as the TUSS recognises the enhanced role the hospital currently plays in trauma care in the West and North West and the travel distance from the Network's MTC in Dublin. The TUSS at UHG will provide improved care to the current volume of patients it manages and will accept transfers of certain severe injuries from the Trauma Units in the region. The care of these injuries requires input from the specialties of plastic surgery and spinal surgery; investment in these services will allow patients from the region to be definitively managed in Galway, avoiding the need for transfer to the MTC in Dublin.

In 2024, NOTS secured funding in the National Service Plan 2025, as set out in Table 2 below, to begin the development of the TUSS. This includes the establishment of specialist spinal and plastics services at UHG and the development of the Planned Trauma Services at Merlin Park Hospital, part of the TUSS, to meet the trauma and scheduled care demands in Galway.

Table 2: Trauma Unit Specialist Services at UHG - New Service Development Funding

	2023*	2024*	2025	2026 (Full year costs)
TUSS at UHG**	-	-	€0.95m	€1.9m
Planned Trauma Care at Merlin Park Hospital	-	-	€1.0m	€2.0m
	-	-	€1.95m	€3.9m

**No New Service Development funding received.*

*** Development of Specialist Spinal and Plastics Services at UHG.*

I trust the above information is of assistance to you. If you require any further details please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Damian McGovern
Programme Manager
National Office for Trauma Services