

NS/MB/MC

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24th September 2024

Mr Martin Browne TD
Dàil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

PQ 34518/24

To ask the Minister for Health the provisions he foresees being taken to address the backlog in care at UHL, Ennis, Nenagh, St. John's and Croom Orthopaedic Hospital due to the deferral of inpatient, day surgery, outpatient appointments and other scheduled services; how the deferral of these services will not contribute to disimproved patient outcomes; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Martin Browne

Dear Deputy Browne,

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.

Scheduled care is gradually resuming across UL Hospitals Group following the significant reductions announced on August 8th in order to reduce overcrowding and decongest the University Hospital Limerick (UHL) site.

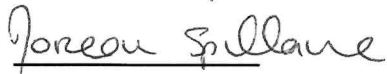
Outpatient clinics have resumed at all five affected hospitals – UHL, Ennis Hospital, Nenagh Hospital, St John's Hospital and Croom Orthopaedic Hospital.

Inpatient and day case activity, as well as endoscopy services, are gradually being stood up across the Group. This resumption of scheduled care is being managed within available resources and is subject to daily review in line with our escalation plan.

This plan allows for reductions in scheduled care when there are significant surges in activity through our Emergency Department which present challenges in patient flow and adversely affect the patient experience. We regret when any patient has their planned procedure or investigation cancelled. Affected patients are being contacted directly by our staff and are rescheduled as soon as possible.

Our Waiting List Action Plan recovery plan prioritises outpatients affected by the recent deferrals to receive new appointments in the coming weeks. For example, 92% of outpatient appointments postponed during the period of de-escalation have since been rescheduled.

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



Ms Noreen Spillane
Acting Chief Executive Officer
UL Hospitals Group