



17 May 2017

Ms Edwina Leonard
County Hall
Town Centre
Tallaght

Dear Ms Leonard

Thank you for your recent letter following the South Dublin County Council's Tallaght Area Committee meeting held on 27th February.

My Department has commenced the Health Service Capacity Review over recent weeks. My officials have been progressing work on the Review process, including putting in place the Review structures, drawing up the Terms of Reference, assessing external expertise requirements, and considering options for stakeholder consultation.

The review is being led by my Department and will be overseen by a Steering Group. The Steering Group is in place and includes senior officials from my Department and the Departments of the Taoiseach and Public Expenditure and Reform, the HSE, and experts with a clinical and academic background. The Steering Group met for the first time in March, and is meeting again this month. Also, an independent peer group of international health experts has been established to review and validate the review methodology and findings.

The Terms of Reference for the review are as follows:

- a) To determine and review current capacity, both public and private, in the health system and benchmark with international comparators;
- b) To determine drivers of future demand and estimate impact on capacity requirements to 2030;
- c) To consider and analyse how key reforms to the model of care will impact on future capacity requirements across the system; and
- d) To provide an overall assessment, including prioritisation and sequencing, of future capacity requirements on a phased basis for the period 2017 – 2030 at a national and regional level, cognisant of resource availability.

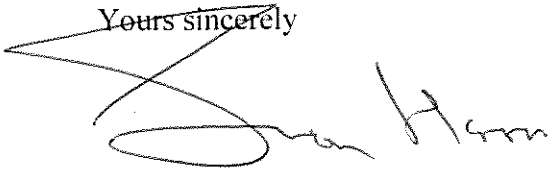
My Department has recently gone out to tender for technical, analytical and engagement expertise to assist in the Review process.

It is essential that this review is progressed sufficiently to enable it to feed into the mid-term review of the capital programme, which will take place later in the year. While the review will consider capacity requirements including at Tallaght Hospital, over the next decade or so, I am also anxious that it also provides a short-term focus and determine how capital and other investment over the coming years can be best targeted, given the current pressures being experienced within our hospital services.

I look forward to the emerging findings later in the year.

I hope this is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Harris', written over the typed name.

Simon Harris T.D.
Minister for Health