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CC1-1a-0025 – July 2025 **Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe**
Galway County Council

LK/tc

22nd July 2025

Mr. Bernard Gloster,
CEO's Office, HSE,
Dr. Steevens' Hospital
Steeven's Lane,
Dublin 8,
D08 W2A8

ceo.office@hse.ie

RE: Resolution of Galway County Council – Announcement of HSE to Downgrade Portiuncula Hospital

A chara,

At the July meeting of Galway County Council, the following resolution was passed:

Galway County Council reaffirms its strong support for Portiuncula University Hospital, as recognised under Special Policy Objective H4 of the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028, and acknowledges PUH's long term strategic importance in the county and beyond as a provider of essential healthcare services and also as a major employer and economic driver in Co Galway.

-Galway County Council calls on the Minister for Health and CEO HSE to support PUH's critical role in maternity care provision in the county and to recognise Portiuncula UH's strategic location as the most accessibly located maternity unit in the country just 800 meters off the M6 in providing crucial timely accessible maternity care for mothers infants and families across a wide and rural catchment in County Galway and to communities in Roscommon, Westmeath, Longford, Leitrim, Offaly, North Tipperary and beyond. Restriction of maternity services poses serious risks to women and infants, especially those in rural and socioeconomically disadvantaged areas with poor transport where they are now facing much increased travel times and reduced local access to crucial maternity services.

-Galway County Council calls on the Minister for Health and CEO HSE to seek development of an immediate plan for reinstatement of high quality safe maternity services at PUH, with allocation of the necessary funding & resources for full implementation.

-Galway County Council asks the Minister for Health if she will commission a fully independent external review of maternity services across the county and comprehensively examine risk assessments and consequences of any maternity care downgrade in the wider area served including the ability of receiving maternity units to safely absorb additional patient load, given capacity, staffing, and infrastructure challenges.

A copy of this motion is sent to the Oireachtas Joint Health Committee, all Oireachtas Elected Representatives for the area, and all local authorities.

I would be obliged if you could consider and revert to me with your views on the above Motion so that I can advise the Elected Members.

Please arrange to reply directly to Ms. Liadhan Keady, County Secretary at secretary@galwaycoco.ie

Mise, le meas,



Ms. Liadhan Keady
County Secretary