

from the Constituency Office of
Brendan Howlin TD
Leas-Cheann Comhairle

28 May 2009

Professor Brendan Drumm,
Chief Executive Officer,
Health Service Executive,
Limetree Avenue,
Millennium Park,
Naas,
Co. Kildare.

Dear Professor Drumm,

You will be aware of the media reports (Irish Independent 25/5/09 and Irish Examiner 26/6/09) concerning a report drawn up by the HSE on the future of acute hospital services in the South-East.

You can imagine the dismay of the people of Co. Wexford, the most populous county in the region, at the suggestion that all acute treatment be transferred to Waterford Regional Hospital and, alarmingly, that Wexford General A. & E. would be reduced to "a nurse-led urgent care centre open 12 hours per day to treat minor illnesses and injuries".

It is absolutely essential that there be public debate about these critical issues and I would ask you to clearly state the intentions of the HSE regarding Wexford General Hospital.

In the 2009 Service Provision Plan set out by HSE South in January of this year, a new €7.8 million A. & E. Department was included in the capital plan for Wexford General Hospital. It was further stated that the design teams had been appointed for the new A. & E. Department and the new Delivery Suite. I need to know as a matter of urgency the status of this commitment. In clear terms, is this new A. & E. Department to be built in the immediate future?

An early and clear response to this letter would be greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,



Brendan Howlin, T.D.
Leas-Cheann Comhairle

Office of the Deputy Speaker
Irish House of Parliament