



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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8th June 2009

Mr Brendan Howlin TD,
Leas Cheann Comhairle,
Dail Eireann,
Dublin.

RE: Services at Wexford General Hospital, Hospital Group South East (HGSE)

A Leas Cheann Comhairle,

I refer to your letter dated 28th May 2009 regarding concerns about services provided at Wexford General Hospital. I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

I am pleased to have this opportunity to clarify the position for you.

The leaked document referred to in the media is the Review of Acute Hospital Services in HSE South which was published on Tuesday 9th June. This report makes detailed recommendations on the future of Acute Hospital Services in Cork and Kerry but also takes a high level view of the Acute Services in the South East (Waterford Regional, Wexford General, St Luke's Kilkenny and South Tipperary General Hospitals). There are no detailed recommendations on Acute Services in the South East.

In the context of reconfiguration, I have requested the Hospital Network Manager in the HGSE to commence the process of planning for Acute Service Reconfiguration in the South East. A steering group was established on 1st April 2009 and a Project Manager was appointed on 4th May 2009. The function of the steering group is to agree the future organisation of Acute Hospital Services in the area with reference to HSE Corporate Strategy, National Service Plan and best practice taking cognisance of other Acute Services Reviews completed (including the recently published report referenced above). The steering group will work with a number of specialty advisory groups to assist in evidence based decision making. The group plans to provide a final proposal on the future of Acute Hospital Services in the South East by the end of 2009.

I can also confirm that the two significant projects are on the HSE Capital Programme

- A&E Extension – overall budget €7.750m
- Obstetrics Theatre & Delivery Suite - €15.150m

In 2008, a full design team were appointed under new government contracts to progress the design of the above two developments.

In February 2009, the HSE received an instruction from the Department of Finance that no new commitments/contracts were to be entered into without specific Department of Finance approval. This meant that the design process for these developments could not proceed beyond Stage 1 without Department of Finance approval.

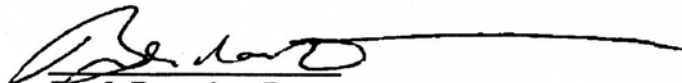
Stage 1 Design (overall scheme design and layout) is due for completion/formal sign off later this month.

The Hospital Group South East has applied for approval to complete the design up to tender stage. It is anticipated that it will receive approval to complete the design in 2009.

Approval to proceed to construction will depend on funding availability.

This is the current position on the issues raised in your letter.

Yours sincerely,



**Prof. Brendan Drumm,
Chief Executive Officer.**