

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



Professor Brendan Drumm,  
Chief Executive Officer,  
CEO's Office,  
Health Service Executive,  
Dr. Steevens' Hospital,  
Dublin 8

17 June 2009

Dear Professor Drumm,

I am grateful to you for your response to my letter concerning the future of acute services at Wexford General Hospital.

I note that the steering group to review acute services reconfiguration in the South-East consists of the Clinical Directors of the four acute hospitals concerned and others. I would be obliged to know the names of the other members of the steering group. In particular who represents the public/democratic interest among the group?

I share the HSE objective of maximising the health status of the population. This will involve balancing issues of personnel, facilities, access, geography, population and other factors. The decisions arrived at will be among the most important to effect the lives of the people of the region. For that reason the process must be open and transparent and not confined to clinicians and health professionals.

I would welcome an early opportunity to meet with the group, to see their terms of reference and to discuss how their critically important work is to be advanced.

Your assistance in arranging such a meeting would be appreciated.

I take it from your letter to me that the stated intention of the HSE to proceed with the capital works proposed for A&E at Wexford General, means that the dilution or diminution of 24 hour, 7 day A&E cover is not within the purview of the steering group.

Yours sincerely,

**Brendan Howlin, T.D.**  
**Leas-Cheann Comhairle**