

DÁIL ÉIREANN

Dé Máirt, 10 Feabhra, 2009
Tuesday, 10th February, 2009

2.30 p.m.

GNÓ COMHALTAÍ PRÍOBHÁIDEACHA PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Fógra i dtaobh leasú ar Thairsceint : Notice of Amendment to Motion

53. “That Dáil Éireann:

noting the conclusions of the HSE Teamwork/Howarth Report of Acute Hospital Services in the Mid-West which recommended:

- that the current staff complement of three A&E consultants in Limerick must be upgraded to eight in order to allow for a consultant delivered service (which have not been advertised or implemented);
- 135 additional new acute in-patient beds (which are not in place);
- an increase in the number of ambulances (which have not been delivered);
- a high dependency unit in Limerick Regional Hospital (for which planning permission has not yet been sought); and
- the necessary upgrade of the A&E unit in Limerick Regional Hospital (which has not taken place);

and considering that:

- currently between 15 and 30 people are regularly on trolleys for durations in excess of 24 hours in Limerick Regional Hospital;
- the putative cost in the original draft of the Report was €380 million and apparently only €6 million is available to implement the changes;
- local GPs in the area have expressed serious concerns about A&E cover and patient safety if this plan goes ahead; and
- the implementation of the HSE Teamwork/Howarth Report is unlikely to take place in the current economic climate;

calls on the Government to:

- maintain current A&E services at Ennis and Nenagh Hospitals; and
- proceed with the planned upgrade of Ennis and Nenagh Hospitals.” — *James Reilly, Enda Kenny, Bernard Allen, James Bannon, Seán Barrett, Pat Breen, Richard Bruton, Ulick Burke, Catherine Byrne, Joe Carey, Deirdre Clune, Paul Connaughton,*

Noel J. Coonan, Simon Coveney, Seymour Crawford, Michael Creed, Lucinda Creighton, Michael D'Arcy, John Deasy, Jimmy Deenihan, Andrew Doyle, Bernard J. Durkan, Damien English, Olwyn Enright, Frank Feighan, Charles Flanagan, Terence Flanagan, Brian Hayes, Tom Hayes, Phil Hogan, Paul Kehoe, Pádraic McCormack, Shane McEntee, Dinny McGinley, Joe McHugh, Olivia Mitchell, Denis Naughten, Dan Neville, Michael Noonan, Kieran O'Donnell, Fergus O'Dowd, Jim O'Keeffe, John O'Mahony, John Perry, Michael Ring, Alan Shatter, Tom Sheahan, P. J. Sheehan, David Stanton, Billy Timmins, Leo Varadkar.

Leasú:

Amendment:

1. To delete all words after “Dáil Éireann” and substitute the following:

- “— strongly endorses the Government’s commitment to patient safety, quality and fairness as the priorities in the delivery of health services throughout the country;
- supports the Government’s view that fairness to patients throughout the country requires that all patients should have access to the appropriate care in the appropriate place at the appropriate time, provided by the appropriate person;
- recognises that the plan to reorganise hospital services in the Mid-West is evidenced and in accordance with the principles of patient safety, quality assurance and fairness;
- notes and welcomes the conviction of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland that the reforms should continue in the Mid-West and elsewhere;
- welcomes the clinical leadership in the Mid-West region in the project to deliver better services to patients;
- urges everyone in the health service and public representatives in the region to work together to put patient care first above all other interests;
- welcomes the HSE’s commitment that Ennis, Nenagh and St. John’s Hospitals will deliver additional day surgery and diagnostic services, including CT scanning and that many patients from Clare and North Tipperary who currently have to travel to Limerick will now be able to access these services in their local hospitals;
- welcomes the additional specialist services such as dermatology, neurology and rheumatology which will be available in Ennis and Nenagh Hospitals;
- supports the HSE’s plans to appoint eight additional hospital consultants to enable the delivery of these new services and specialties at Ennis and Nenagh Hospitals;
- welcomes the HSE’s intention to enhance the ambulance service in the Mid-West through the deployment of twelve advanced paramedics and increased out-of-hours ambulance cover;
- supports the HSE’s intention to develop a regional critical care service involving the provision of a dedicated new critical care block which will have a total of 40 specialist intensive care, high dependency and coronary care beds and a new emergency theatre;
- recognises the necessity to make capital investment in all four hospitals in the region to support the reconfiguration plans; and
- welcomes the significantly reduced reliance on locum positions to provide services and their replacement with full-time consultant staff for the region which will result from the reconfiguration programme.” — *An tAire Sláinte agus Leanaí.*