

Collette Cowan
Chief Executive Officer
University of Limerick Hospital Group
Dooradoyle
Limerick
CEOULHospitals@hse.ie

Ref: URI-0019845

25 January 2022

Dear Collette

Re: Overcrowding at University Hospital Limerick

Previously HIQA have been in correspondence with you related to overcrowding in the Emergency Department at University Hospital Limerick. I note in particular HIQA's communication with you in April of 2021, and your return correspondence on 6 May 2021 whereby you provided HIQA with; a breakdown on the number of new beds that have been provided, your analysis of factors that contributed to ongoing ED overcrowding despite this uplift in capacity at that time, and measures enacted or in planning to seek to further alleviate this situation.

I am now writing to you as I note that the overcrowding situation would appear to be particularly significant at the hospital over the past number of days. In particular I would be grateful if you could provide an overview of the current situation, your analysis as to why this has occurred, and measures enacted or in planning in the immediate timeframe to seek to address this situation and its associated potential risks to patients.

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I would be grateful if you could respond to the queries outlined above to me, through return correspondence, on or before **Friday 28th January** to qualityandsafety@hiqa.ie marked for my attention.

Yours sincerely,



SEAN EGAN
Director of Healthcare Regulation

CC: Mairin Ryan, Interim CEO, HIQA
Liam Woods, National Director Acute Operations, HSE

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