28th March 2013

Mr. Eoghan Murphy TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 14310/13

To ask the Minister for Health the measures that have been taken to tackle in-patient and day case waiting lists in St Vincent’s University Hospital, Elm Park, Dublin 4; the impact of these measures; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Murphy,

I refer to the parliamentary question above, to which I have been asked to provide a response.

St. Vincent’s University Hospital (SVUH) is the largest hospital in the Dublin South East region, dealing with all trauma and serious cases and providing support for such patients presenting to St. Michael’s Hospital, Dun Laoghaire and St. Columcille’s Hospital, Loughlinstown and also being the National Referral Centre for Adult Cystic Fibrosis and National Centre for Liver Transplantation and Hepatobiliary Medicine.

The hospital has advised that following measures in relation to dealing with in-patient and day case waiting lists have been introduced:

- Continuous validation takes place within the waiting list office in SVUH, and on average 250 patients are removed through validation per month.

- SVUH has a text reminder programme in place which reminds patients of their appointments 5 days before their appointment and again 2 days before their appointment.

- SVUH implements a DNA Policy (Did Not Attend).

- The inpatient and day case waiting list in SVUH is managed on a daily basis with close communication with the multi disciplinary teams throughout the hospital. The hospital creates awareness by providing weekly / monthly waiting list reports to all stakeholders. Speciality specific project groups (SSPG’s) are in place and meet on a regular basis to identify and deal with any issues there may be within a particular speciality.

- The inpatient and day case waiting list is a standing agenda item on the hospital’s Performance & Information Team (PIT) meetings, which are held every month. An update is given at this meeting by the waiting list co-ordinator where issues can be raised with management if necessary.
- The IPDC Waiting List is a standing agenda item on the Executive Council and Bed Management Committees which have representation from Management, Clinicians and Nursing.

- The hospital advised that where possible chronological scheduling takes place with longest waiting patients being admitted first. The focus is on the primary targeting lists to ensure SVUH does not breach the national target month on month.

- The hospital has an internal waiting list policy and also follows the guidelines of the national waiting list management policy.

In addition to these initiatives the hospital is working closely with the Special Delivery Unit (SDU), Department of Health to reduce the number of people on waiting lists.

The result of all these initiatives and measures is evident on the weekly Primary Target List prepared by the SDU which shows that SVUH is on target to meet the SDU inpatient/day case deadline of June 2013.

I trust this is satisfactory.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Martina Queally
HSE Area Manager – Dublin South East / Wicklow