



Mr Joe Guilfoyle
Save Saint Luke's National Campaign
Roncalli
Luke Wadding Street
Waterford

31st January 2011

Dear Mr Guilfoyle,

Thank you for your letter of 6th December last.

Firstly I want to acknowledge your clear commitment to the highest standards of patient care in all hospitals providing cancer care treatment.

We are clear that there will be sufficient beds made available in St James's Hospital and Beaumont hospital to facilitate oncology patients. When a Consultant determines that a patient needs to be admitted to an inpatient bed in St Luke's hospital, this will be managed in the same way as it is at present. The patient's treatment needs will indicate whether they need an inpatient bed in St Luke's, St James's or Beaumont hospitals.

I am sure the catering needs for all cancer patients in St James and Beaumont hospitals will be satisfactory.

With regard to the issue of the travel needs of the patient, the HSE has a 'Travel to Care' scheme which is designed to address travel hardships that patients may incur while travelling to appointments, and this is already in use.

Here in the Irish Cancer Society, we are clear that patient needs will be fully met in the transfer of services from St Luke's Hospital. The Irish Cancer Society supports the State's National Programme for Radiation Oncology. We are hopeful that the St Luke's site will remain in patient care and we will continue to closely monitor this matter.

Yours sincerely,

John McCormack
Chief Executive

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National Cancer Helpline

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Fridays 9am - 5pm

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