



Title of Report:	Correspondence
Committee Report Submitted To:	The Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	8 April 2026
For Decision or For Information	For Decision
To be discussed In Committee	No

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)			
Strategic Theme	Cohesive Leadership		
Outcome	Council operates as one effective and efficient corporate unit with a common purpose and culture		
Lead Officer	Director of Corporate Services		
Estimated Timescale for Completion			
Date to be Completed	N/A		
Budgetary Considerations			
Cost of Proposal			
Included in Current Year Estimates	No		
Capital/Revenue	N/A		
Code	N/A		
Staffing Costs	N/A		
Legal Considerations			
Input of Legal Services Required	YES/NO		
Legal Opinion Obtained	YES/NO		
Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes/No	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to present correspondence for Members' consideration.

1.2 The following correspondence has been received:

2.0 Joann Lynch, Private Secretary to the Minister for Health (email dated 12 March 2026, copy attached)

2.1 Extract

On behalf of the Minister for Health Jennifer Carroll MacNeill TD, I thank you for your correspondence regarding the motion adopted by Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council on 03 February 2026.

The Minister fully recognises the need for patients requiring car T-cell therapy to have timely and compassionate access to treatment closer to home. The car T-cell therapy service in Galway University Hospital (GUH) is due to open in the coming months and the recruitment process is underway to appropriately manage these high acuity patients. Over the coming months, this treatment will be in its early stages of development and the substantial portion of treatment will continue to be met by St James's Hospital, Dublin (SJH) for the foreseeable future, before an increase in capacity is expected to be fully realised at GUH.

SJH currently operates 28 transplant capable beds. These beds are not ring-fenced for malignant haematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT) or car T-cell patients and are also used for non-malignant transplants and other complex therapies. At present, inpatient and day patient beds for medical oncology therapy are shared nationally across 26 systemic anti-cancer therapy (SACT) centres (including the Car T-cell services at SJH and GUH) and at present these centres are at capacity. The expansion of access to car T-cell therapy, including on a cross border or all island basis will be contingent on continued investment in additional capacity, staffing and infrastructure.

Given the similar health challenges faced by each jurisdiction, we are committed to working collaboratively to maximise the potential for service planning and delivery of cancer services in the future. Enhancing North-South cooperation will continue to be a priority for the Irish Government.

3.0 Recommendation

It is recommended that Council notes the correspondence.

Ursula Harper

From: Ministers Office <[REDACTED]@corr.cloud.gov.ie>
Sent: 12 March 2026 12:10
To: Ursula Harper
Subject: HEA-MO-01185-2026

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

HEA-MO-01185-2026

12th March 2026

Dear Ms. Harper,

On behalf of the Minister for Health Jennifer Carroll MacNeill TD, I thank you for your correspondence regarding the motion adopted by Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council on 03 February 2026.

The Minister fully recognises the need for patients requiring car T-cell therapy to have timely and compassionate access to treatment closer to home. The car T-cell therapy service in Galway University Hospital (GUH) is due to open in the coming months and the recruitment process is underway to appropriately manage these high acuity patients. Over the coming months, this treatment will be in its early stages of development and the substantial portion of treatment will continue to be met by St James's Hospital, Dublin (SJH) for the foreseeable future, before an increase in capacity is expected to be fully realised at GUH.

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Given the similar health challenges faced by each jurisdiction, we are committed to working collaboratively to maximise the potential for service planning and delivery of cancer services in the future. Enhancing North-South cooperation will continue to be a priority for the Irish Government.

Yours sincerely,

Joann Lynch

Private Secretary to the Minister for Health