


# Sligo General Hospital - Enough Is Enough

Sligo General Hospital is our regional hospital for the north west. With over 1400 employees, it provides a range of highly specialised services to over a quarter of a million people in Counties Sligo, Leitrim, Donegal, North Roscommon, West Cavan and East Mayo.

However, it is now apparent that this Fianna Fáil led government and Minister Mary Harney are determined to reduce its status to one of a local district hospital offering a curtailed range of services. Already we have had the removal of Breast Cancer Surgery and Mammography Services from Sligo, ignoring the proven track record of the Cancer Care team at the hospital, who were producing results in line with and even exceeding those achieved at top cancer clinics in the United States and elsewhere.

Added to this we now have further budgetary cuts imposed by government and the HSE of a further €12million, bring total cutbacks at the hospital to €24million in recent times.

This is resulting in bed closures, a curtailment in orthopaedic services, and worrying cutbacks in angiography and cardiac services.



The time has now come for the people of this region to say to this Government and Mary Harney:  
**ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!**



**JOHN PERRY TD**

**Caring and Campaigning for Sligo/North Leitrim**

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## Perry and Fine Gael Determined to Restore Cancer Services to Sligo General Hospital

During his last visit to Sligo and to Sligo General Hospital, Dr. James Reilly TD, Fine Gael Deputy Leader and Spokesperson for Health, along with myself, met with the members of the Save Our Cancer Services group in Sligo. At this meeting, and a subsequent public meeting, Dr. Reilly gave a firm commitment that in Government inside the next 12 months, Fine Gael WILL restore the breast cancer surgical and mammography services to Sligo General Hospital; a commitment endorsed by Party Leader, Enda Kenny.

The decision to withdraw these services from Sligo General Hospital was not a decision taken based on scientific evidence. Sligo General Hospital was already producing cancer care results in line with the best cancer clinics in the United States and elsewhere. The decision clearly ignores and defies the cancer care needs of the population north of a line between Galway and Dublin. This is utter discrimination, and when given the chance, our local Fianna Fáil representatives chose to vote WITH the government to remove the cancer services from Sligo.

I will work to ensure that the commitment given by Dr Reilly is delivered as a first priority. The people of this region CAN NOT continue to be treated as second class citizens by this arrogant government.



John Perry TD pictured with Dr. James Reilly and members of the Save Our Cancer Services group, handing over 50,000 signatures to the Office of An Taoiseach, calling for the retention of cancer services at Sligo General Hospital



## Budget Cutbacks May Well Result in Lost Lives

Further cutbacks of €12million, bringing the total budget cuts at Sligo General Hospital to €24million is set to seriously affect the angiography and cardiology services at Sligo General Hospital.

At present, Sligo General offers a premier Cardiology and Angiography service, headed up by consultant Donal Murray. The service results in only a 3 week turnaround time for Cardiac patients. However, with the cutbacks, this service will be severely curtailed, resulting in patients being referred to St. James' Hospital in Dublin with associated waiting time of up to six months.

This critical waiting time will seriously affect cardiac patients, and lives may unfortunately be lost as a result. Wonderful work is being carried out at this unit by Dr. Murray and his team, and the coronary care services at Sligo are among the best in the country.

The hospital's own mission statement reads: "Sligo General Hospital is committed to the deliver of a high quality, patient centred service in a safe, equitable and efficient manner. We recognise and value the contribution of each staff member and endeavour to support them in their ongoing development."

Clearly through government policy and HSE Funding cuts, Sligo General Hospital will be severely restricted in fulfilling the goals of its mission statement. The quarter of a million people in the region serviced by Sligo General Hospital are FULLY ENTITLED to fair and equitable access to top of the range health care provision and hospital care. This Fianna Fáil led government and Mary Harney are seeking to ensure that equity of access is not applicable in the North West region.

John Perry TD and Dr. James Reilly TD pictured with Fine Gael Sligo Co Councillors during a visit to Sligo General Hospital

**I AM DETERMINED THAT SLIGO GENERAL HOSPITAL WILL HAVE ITS CANCER SERVICES RESTORED, AND WILL MAINTAIN ITS REGIONAL HOSPITAL STATUS, WITH THE FULL RANGE OF SPECIALISED MEDICAL SERVICES IT HAS ALWAYS SO DILIGENTLY PROVIDED.**

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