



THE FEDERATION OF
WOMEN'S INSTITUTES
OF NORTHERN IRELAND

November 2025

To Whom It May Concern

Re: Support for the restoration of Emergency Surgery to the South West Acute Hospital, Enniskillen and endorsement for the SOAS Roadmap

We, the members of the Erne area branches of the Women's Institute of Northern Ireland, write to fully support the campaign **for the restoration of emergency surgery** at the South West Acute Hospital, Enniskillen and to state our full support for the **Save Our Acute Services (SOAS) Roadmap**.

The Women's Institute is a community-based organisation whose motto is **Women Involved in Family, Friendship and Community**. Hospitals providing emergency surgery are a necessity for all communities especially in rural areas. It is totally unacceptable that the families and communities who live in rural areas have to make long journeys to Altnagevlin hospital, bypassing the South West Acute Hospital, for emergency surgery. The lives of our families and communities are being put at risk. This is a problem that has been caused by the withdrawal of emergency surgery from the SWAH.

It is unacceptable that Fermanagh patients spend hours being tested and diagnosed in the South West Acute Hospital to then be expected to endure the "Double-ED" – and begin again in the Altnagevlin hospital. This is never accepted from any other hospital at times of emergency surgery need. This is unsafe and uniquely compromises patients in our community. This is still happening.

The Save Our Acute Services (SOAS) have worked hard to generate a solution to this problem by their production of a Roadmap, a bespoke plan for our area. This builds a roadmap step-by-step for the sustainability of other codependent services in our state-of-the-art acute hospital, the SWAH.

We ask the decision makers to:

- **Restore emergency surgery** to the South West Acute Hospital
- Designate the SWAH as a **rural area hospital**
- **Implement the recommendations** of the SOAS Roadmap to achieve these objectives.

Our support for the restoration of emergency surgery is fully aligned to our Mission Statement which is:

to unite in promoting any work which makes for the betterment of our homes, and the development and improvement of conditions of rural and urban life through social and educational activities

We urge everyone to support this campaign for our families and communities within Fermanagh and the surrounding areas.

Yours Sincerely,

Erne Area Institutes

The Women's Institute is a charity registered with The Charity Commission of Northern Ireland ref number NIC101656