

Tullamore Hospital officially opens

Described as one of the most modern health care facilities in the country the Midland Regional Hospital at Tullamore was officially opened by An Taoiseach Brian Cowen on Thursday, March 3.

One of the few purpose-built, standalone hospital buildings outside of Dublin, it opened on a phased basis between May 2007 and December 2008. Since the initial opening in 2007 and by the end of 2011 approximately 34,808 Emergency Admissions, 47,495 Inpatient and 90,292 day case patients will have been treated.

Built at a cost of €150m, the new hospital has currently 231 beds in operation spread across the specialties including a 21 bed day hospital.

The hospital is the regional centre for orthopaedics and ENT. It also provides specialised services such as oncology/haematology, coronary care and renal dialysis. The hospital has four major operating theatres along with two day theatres, an endoscopy suite and a minor procedures room.

The full range of clinical support services are available on site including physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, clinical nutrition and dietetics, pastoral care, oncology pharmacy and general pharmacy.

In addition, the hospital has nine fully landscaped internal courtyards, high specification fibre optic IT system, is completely filmless, ie no traditional X-Rays are used and has a large concourse/entrance area with waiting area and children's play area, café and shop facilities.

Speaking at the official opening, An Taoiseach Brian Cowen said, "I would like to firstly congratulate all staff who have worked together in partnership to see this hospital develop from an idea into a reality.

"As Health Minister in 1997, I was pleased to be able to contribute to the planning of a brand new hospital which would deliver quality health care in a state of the art facility. The magnificent hospital is designed for that purpose and will serve us for decades to come," he added.