

**From:** Minister  
**Sent:** 10 November 2017 13:06  
**To:** National Planning Framework  
**Subject:** FW: National Planning Framework  
**Attachments:** Submission to Minister from UHG Consultants.pdf

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**From:** Gavin McSpadden [<mailto:Gavin.McSpadden@Oireachtas.ie>] **On Behalf Of** Hildegarde Naughton  
**Sent:** 10 November 2017 12:39  
**To:** Minister  
**Subject:** National Planning Framework

*(See attached file: Submission to Minister from UHG Consultants.pdf)*

The Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government  
Eoghan Murphy T.D.  
The Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government  
Customs House  
Dublin 1

9<sup>th</sup> November 2017

Re: National Planning Framework

Dear Minister,

I write in relation to the above matter and particularly the need for a new Acute Hospital for the West/North-West.

I am attaching for your attention a submission by all 196 Senior Hospital Clinicians in University Hospital Galway (UHG), which comprises two campuses, one in Newcastle and the other in Merlin Park, to the Minister for Health.

You can see from the enclosed that the Consultants at UHG are adamant that the current aging facilities are not fit for purpose, either in capacity or structure, to meet the current and future care requirements for the population of over 8000,000 that they provide acute hospital care for.

You will be aware that Galway is the only acute hospital in the region and provides acute care for people from Donegal as far down as Clare and across the midlands to Athlone.

Notwithstanding all the other calls on the State purse that the decisions on the National Planning Framework will involve, I think it would be remiss of us to ignore the advice of such a large number of Consultants in relation to the crumbling nature of hospital infrastructure in the West.

I should also point out that both Galway hospitals were built in the 1950's and the alternative hospital in Merlin Park has recently had its operating theatres condemned as being unfit for use. They will not reopen.

In light of the forgoing I would urge you to give very serious consideration to including a new Acute Hospital for the West in the forthcoming National Planning Framework.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

*Hildegarde Naughton*

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Hildegarde Naughton T.D .

Fine Gael - Galway West & South Mayo Constituency

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14<sup>th</sup> February 2017

Mr. Simon Harris, Minister for Health,  
Dept of Health,  
Hawkins House, Dublin 2  
By Email: [ministersoffice@health.gov.ie](mailto:ministersoffice@health.gov.ie)

Dear Minister,

Please find enclosed a copy of the submission I gave you (when we met in Letterkenny hospital in December) on behalf of all consultant clinician colleagues at Galway University Hospital, requesting urgent approval to proceed with an options appraisal for the future acute hospital needs in Galway.

We urgently request that you consider our proposal as the current aging facilities are not fit for purpose either in capacity or structure to meet the current and future care requirements for the population of over 800,000 that we provide acute hospital care for.

I am available to meet to discuss further.

Regards

[Redacted signature block]

[Redacted text]

[Redacted text]

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cc:

[Redacted text]

14<sup>th</sup> February 2017

**Re: Request from the Senior Clinicians at Galway University Hospital for an Options Appraisal for a New Acute Hospital for Galway and Saolta**

**Background:**

Galway, and Saolta University Healthcare group, urgently need a new acute hospital to safely manage the healthcare needs of the region. The current ageing facilities at University Hospital Galway (UHG) are not fit for purpose and do not provide an appropriate environment to safely manage the current and future care needs of the population of the West/Northwest. The proposed new Emergency Department (ED) will provide badly needed infrastructure and space for the current inadequate and overwhelmed department, but will not address the serious infrastructural and capacity deficits across the UHG campus.

**GUH Provides Dual Clinical Functions:**

1. Secondary care to the population of Galway city and county and adjacent parts of counties Mayo, Roscommon and Clare.
2. Tertiary care for the 800,000+ population across the 6 West/Northwest counties (Donegal, Leitrim, Sligo, Mayo, Roscommon and Galway). Saolta University Healthcare Group is unique among the hospital groups having only one level 4 hospital (UHG) for this population, supporting four level 3 hospitals and one level 2 hospital.

**Current Situation:**

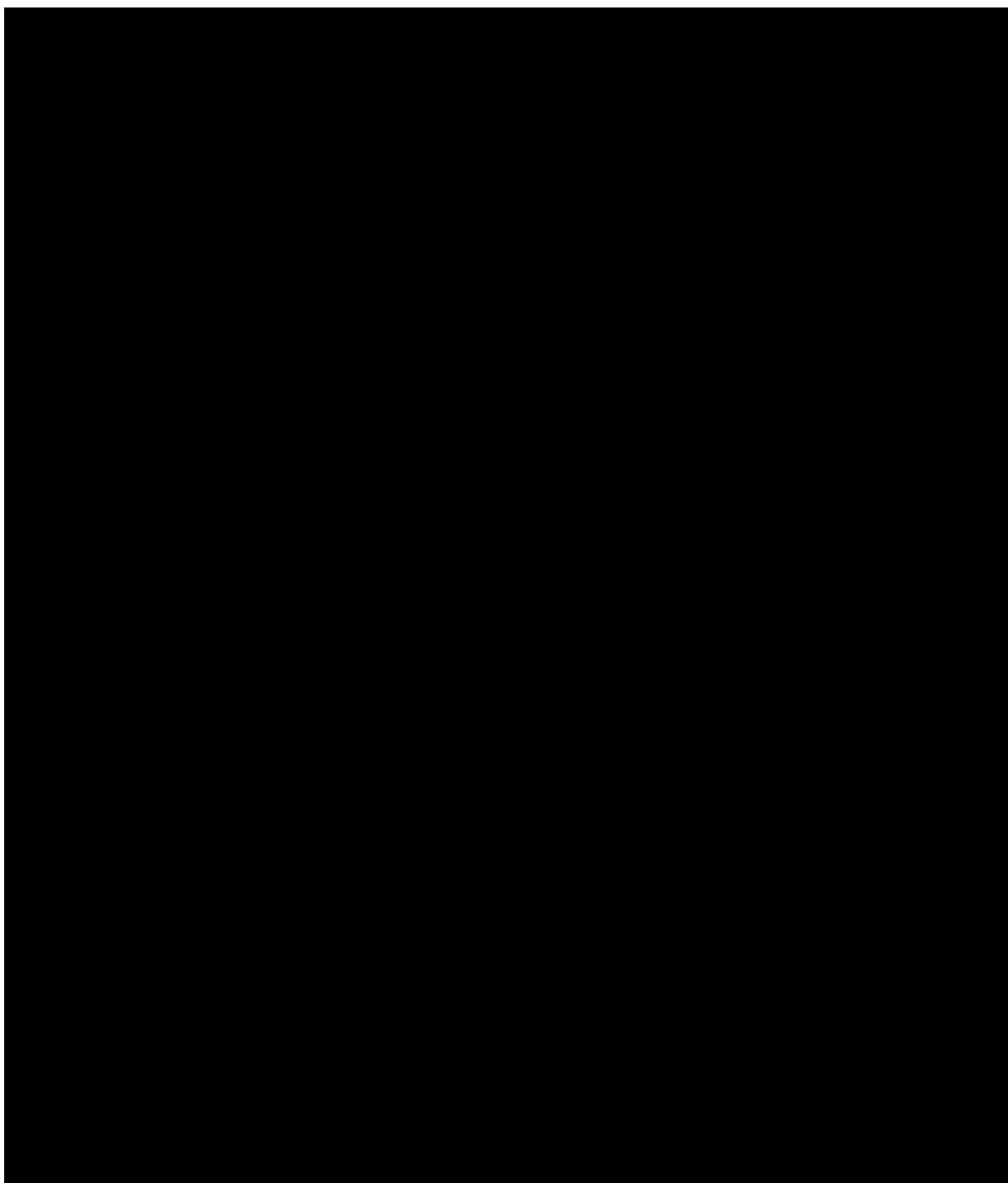
1. There is no clear medium/long-term strategic vision for acute hospital services in Galway and the region.
2. UHG is one of the busiest hospitals in the country but has one of the greatest challenges in managing access for emergency and elective services.
3. The current UHG site is a city centre campus consisting of multiple, predominantly low-rise buildings dating from the early 1950s, spread across a congested site with poor access for patients and staff. The infrastructure is neither adequate nor safe for the optimal delivery of high quality modern healthcare.
4. The unplanned evolution of the Saolta University healthcare group has resulted in a major increase in demand for tertiary services in Galway, further exacerbating the capacity deficits in UHG.
5. The current ED at UHG (second busiest in Ireland) is clearly not fit for purpose in size, layout or capacity. While the proposal to build a new ED on the UHG site is welcome, it does not address the serious underlying capacity and infrastructure deficits throughout the rest of the hospital. The current minimal capital costing for this proposal is €65million and it has yet to get approval to proceed to the design phase with no current timeframe for completion.

**Request:**

1. We, the clinicians at UHG request approval to proceed urgently with an **options appraisal of the infrastructural requirements needed in Galway**, to facilitate the delivery of safe high quality acute, elective and cancer care for all our patients across the West/Northwest, now and into the future.
2. **Immediate investment in the current ED** at UHG to alleviate the current unsafe and unacceptable pressure within the department.

This request has been signed and endorsed individually by each of the 196 Consultants working at Galway University Hospital:

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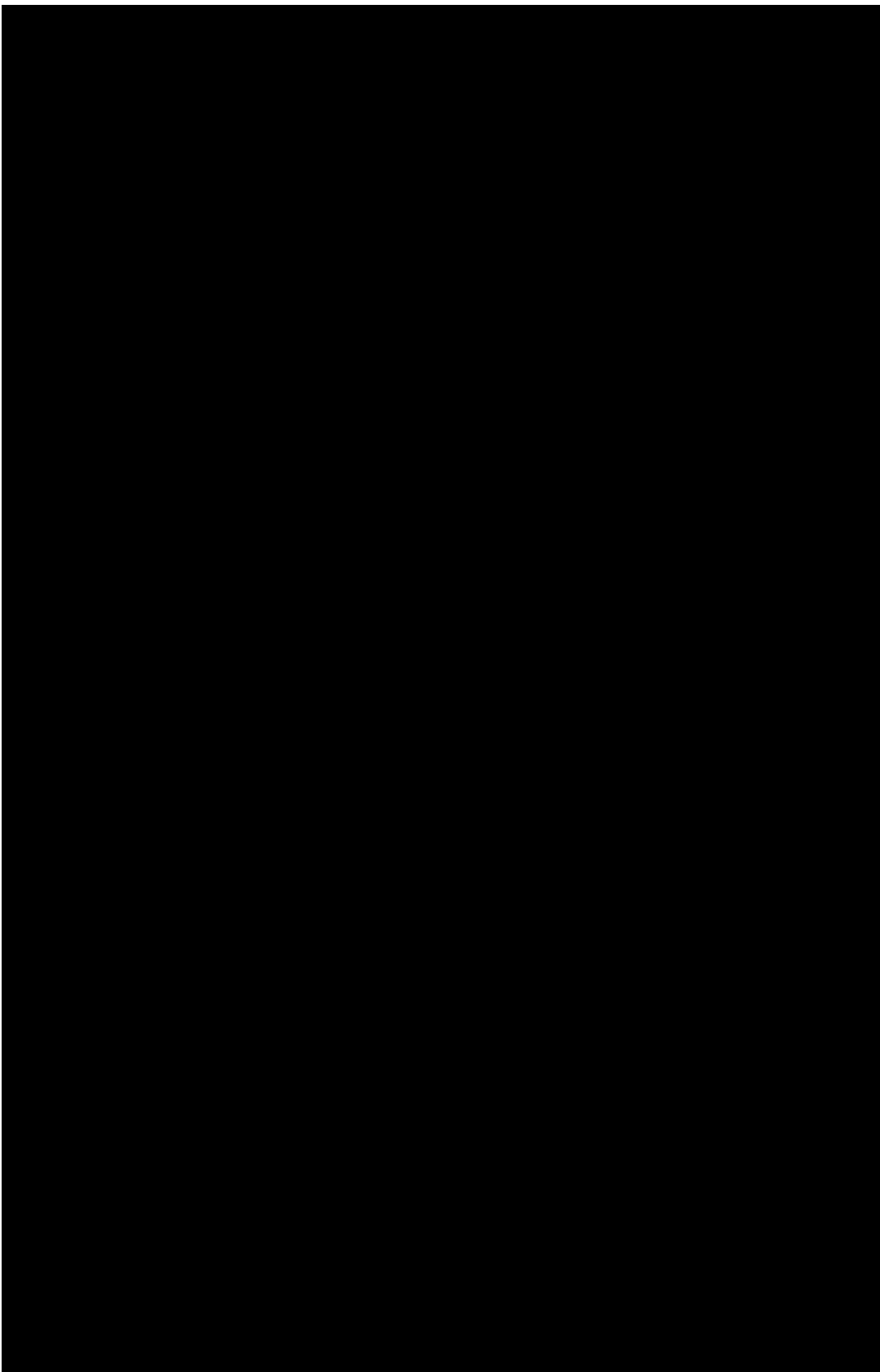
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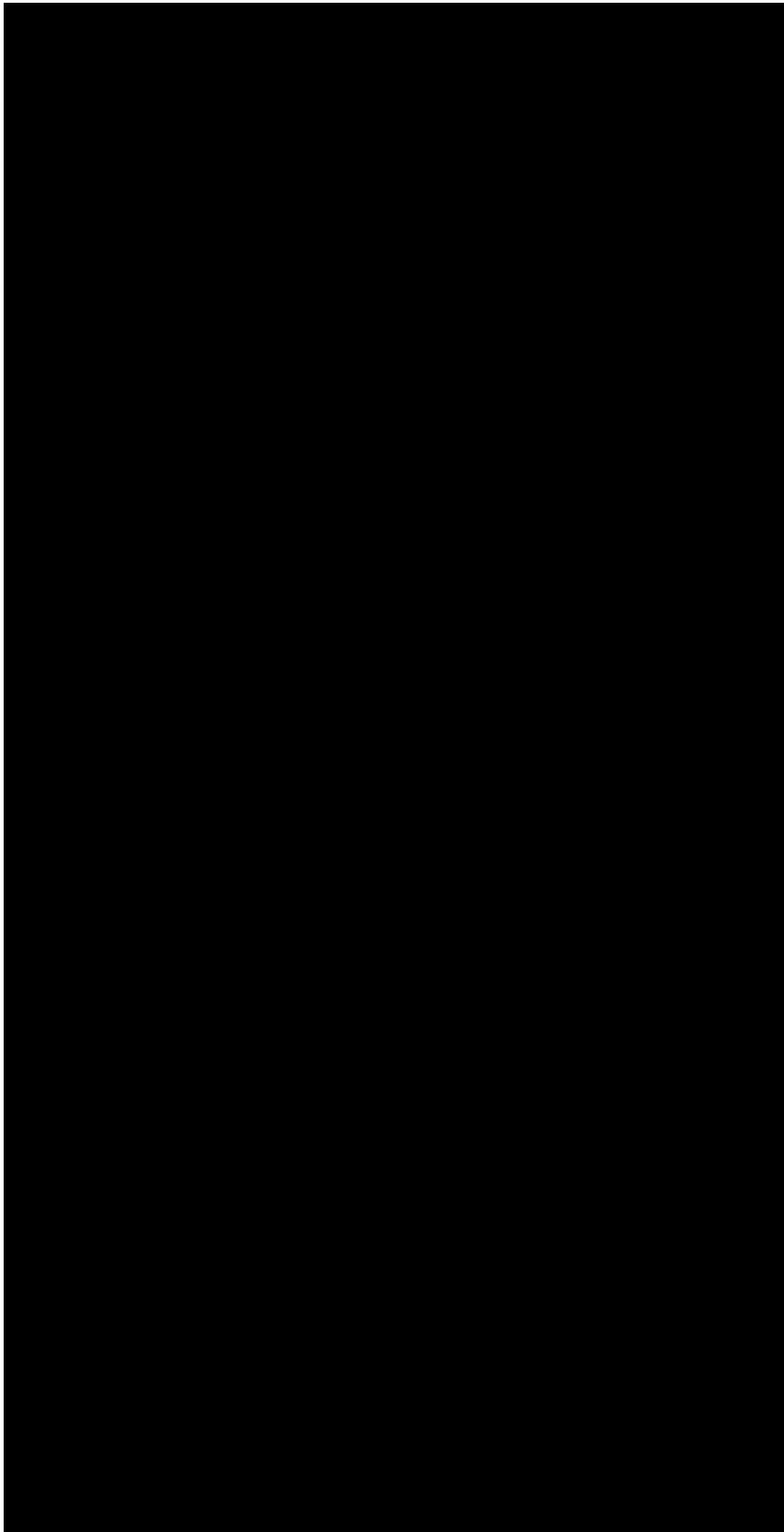
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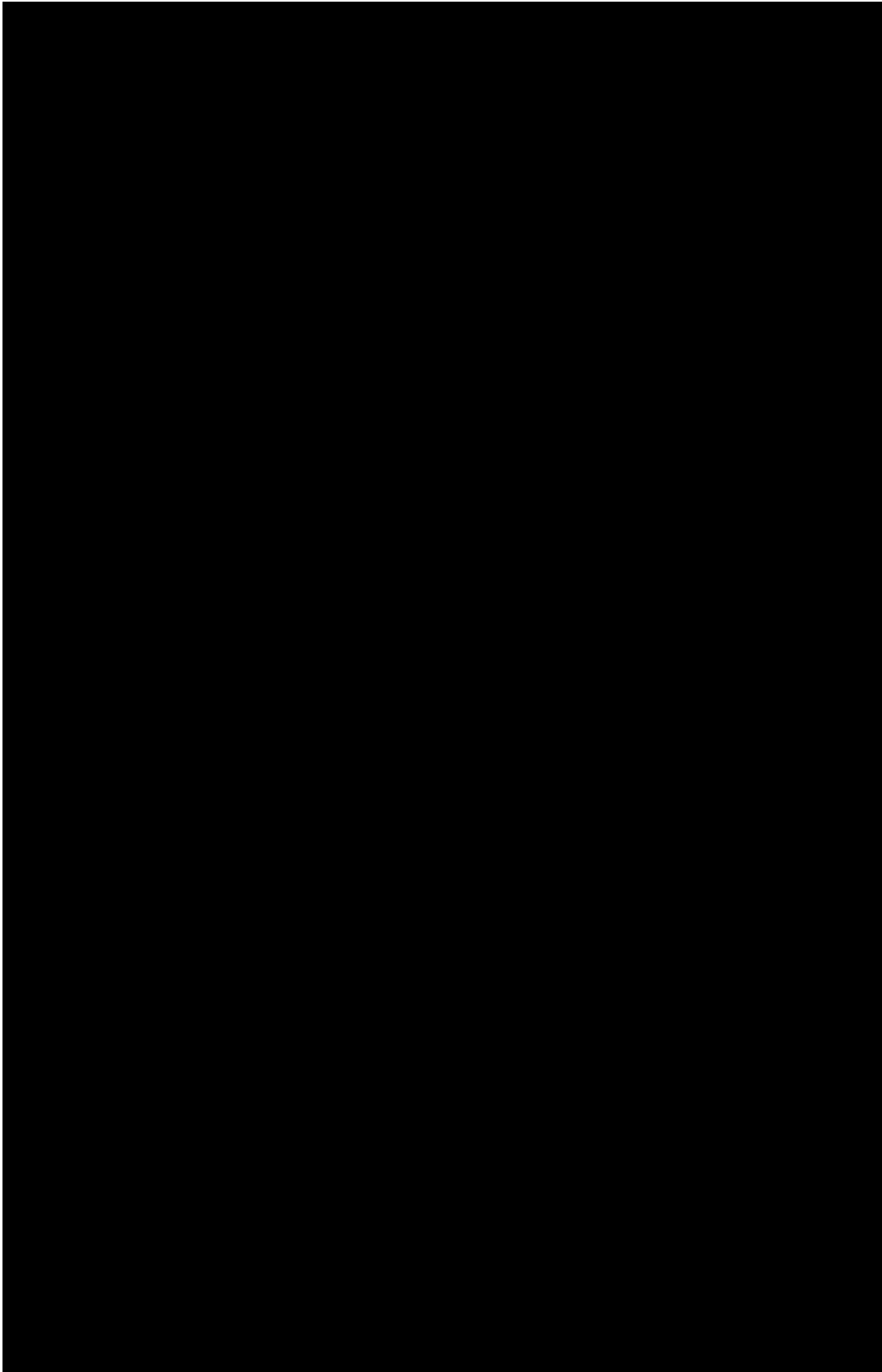




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