

CC/MH/MMCM

Email: [pgmidwestacute@hse.ie](mailto:pgmidwestacute@hse.ie)

29<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Dr Michael Harty TD  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

**Re: PQ 43745/19**

**\* To ask the Minister for Health the number of whole-time equivalent consultant endocrinologist posts providing specialist diabetic services in the UL hospital group; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Michael Harty**

Dear Dr Harty,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The staffing deficits identified by Diabetes Ireland are acknowledged and addressing these deficits remains a priority for UL Hospitals Group.

There is currently 1.0 WTE consultant endocrinologist in the group with adult diabetic patients. A second consultant position is currently progressing through the recruitment process. Our services are also supported by a dedicated team of clinical nurse specialists in diabetes. In addition there are three podiatrists working in diabetic foot care.

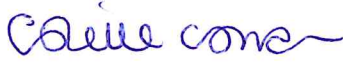
There are two consultants and a specialist dietitian working with our paediatric diabetes patients. However, there is currently no specialist dietitian in post for adults with Type 1 Diabetes. Approval will be required nationally before we can progress recruitment for this post. UL Hospitals Group has identified this as a significant gap in our service and we are committed to addressing this.

This staffing deficit in respect of the specialist dietitian is one of the main reasons why ULHG does not start adult patients on insulin pumps. We do, however, accept patients established on pumps from elsewhere and these patients are managed under the care of the consultant endocrinologist. The largest group of these patients are those who have transferred from the paediatric diabetes service in UHL. All of our insulin pump patients are seen in UHL.

OPD diabetic clinics take place in Ennis, Nenagh, and St John's Hospital as well as UHL. There is an average of two diabetic clinics per week across ULHG.

I trust this clarifies the position, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,



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**Colette Cowan**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**UL Hospitals Group**