

CC/CB/MMCM

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

24<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Mr Colm Burke TD,  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

Re: PQ 19375/20

**\* To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients with type 1 diabetes attending the diabetes service at University Hospital Limerick; the waiting times for those with type 1 diabetes seeking appointments for the service; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Colm Burke**

Dear Deputy Burke,

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.

As per UL Hospitals Group Patient Management System, there were 3107 attendances to our adult diabetes clinics in 2019, this includes patients with Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes.

The waiting time for a routine diabetes appointment is now approximately 5 years. New patients may be triaged to be seen sooner than this on the basis of the clinical information provided by the referring physician.

I can confirm that appointments are currently provided in line with UL Hospitals Group Medicine Directorate Emergence Plan from Covid-19. To comply with this plan, Consultant Endocrinologist, Dr Noctor has a weekly clinic where eight patients are reviewed face to face. Dr Noctor has two other monthly clinics where another eight patients are reviewed (also face to face).

In addition to face to face clinics, approximately eight other patients are reviewed virtually on a weekly basis.

Patients are also seen weekly in the Rapid Access Medical Unit by the Diabetes team, this varies between six to eight patients per week.

The Diabetic Nurse reviews have now recommenced and they are seeing two patients per week in addition to inpatient consults. This number is due to increase pending the return of a Diabetes Nurse who was redeployed during the Covid -19 Pandemic.



I trust this clarifies the position. Please contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,



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