CC/ROD/MC

04th May 2021

Mr Richard O'Donoghue TD,
Dàil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

* PQ 20713/21: To ask the Minister for Health the number of full-time radiographers working in University Hospital Limerick in each of the past five years, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Richard O'Donoghue

Dear Deputy O'Donoghue,

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.

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your Parliamentary Question regarding the number of full-time radiographers working at University Hospital Limerick in each of the past five years, in tabular form. Please see below for a breakdown of the number of full time radiographers working at University Hospital Limerick between 2016 and 2020.

Month/Year	WTE
Dec-16	48.6
Dec-17	53.8
Dec-18	59.4
Dec-19	59.8
Dec-20	67.1

In addition, I'm pleased to let you know that GPs now have increased direct access to radiology diagnostics. This outsourced service is provided by a number of private companies and hospitals and will provide GPs with direct access to at least an additional 95,000 radiology scans nationally in 2021. Increased access to diagnostic services for the diagnosis and management of chronic disease in primary care is a key goal of the Slaintecare Programme. By increasing GP direct access to scans, diagnostics capacity in the community is increased and hospital avoidance can be facilitated.

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