

CC/JC/MC

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

30<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Mr Jackie Cahill TD,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

Re: PQ 25125/21

**To ask the Minister for Health if he will appoint a full-time consultant from University Hospital Limerick to the medical assessment unit in Nenagh Hospital as a matter of priority (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Jackie Cahill**

**Details supplied: Considering that the Unit has been closed for two days this week due to lack of staff; considering that this Unit is closed sporadically due to lack of a consultant; considering that the operation of this Unit is intended to take pressure off of services in University Hospital Limerick and that these services are greatly needed in the north Tipperary and Nenagh areas.**

Dear Deputy Cahill,

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 have been in contact with the relevant staff and I have been informed that UL Hospitals Group is actively engaged in the recruitment process for permanent physicians for Nenagh Hospital in order to maintain the existing service provided at Nenagh MAU. We are also examining how all of our Medical Assessment Units are operating across our Model 2 hospitals, in order to maximise patient flow across our sites.

Anyone scheduled for follow-up appointments on the days the MAU at Nenagh Hospital was closed in recent weeks, has been contacted by the hospital, and offered alternative appointments. While the Nenagh unit is closed, we are encouraging local GPs and out-of-hours doctors to instead refer appropriate patients to the MAUs at St John's Limerick and Ennis.

We apologise to any patient who has been inconvenienced by any temporary closures. The decision was taken to ensure patient safety, which we strive to protect at all times.

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**

