

CC/NC/MC

Email: pgmidwestacute@hse.ie

15th November 2021

Mr Niall Collins TD,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 53190/21, PQ 53192/21

***To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons who are waiting on a first appointment for the outpatients diabetes clinic in any of the University of Limerick Hospitals Group in age groups (details supplied) in tabular form.**

Details supplied: 18-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-54, 55-64 and over 65 years of age

***To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons who are waiting on a first appointment to the outpatients diabetes clinic in any of the University of Limerick Hospitals group that have type 1 diabetes, type 2 diabetes or other forms of diabetes.**

Dear Minister Collins,

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

Please see below data in relation to the number of persons who are waiting on a first appointment in the outpatients diabetes clinic at UL Hospitals Group, it is not possible to differentiate between patients who have Type 1, Type 2 or any other forms of diabetes and who are waiting for an appointment.

Age:	Patients waiting:
18 to 24	7
25 to 34	22
35 to 44	68
45 to 54	118
55 to 64	168
65+	258
Total	641

In December 2020, UL Hospitals Group received confirmation of funding to recruit three additional dietetic posts for the treatment of adult diabetes. This funding has been made available through the national clinical programme for diabetes. These posts include two senior dieticians and one staff grade dietician. I can confirm

that the recruitment process for these posts is at an advanced stage. We will be able to provide a more precise timeline on when we expect successful candidates to take up post in the near future.

A second consultant endocrinologist took up post on the 1st October 2020. Two further consultant endocrinology posts have been approved for University Hospital Limerick. These posts are currently being progressed through the approved HR process. It is not possible at this time to give a definitive timeline as to when these posts will be filled.

The Adult Diabetes Service is also supported by a dedicated team of Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS) and Staff Nurses. Four Diabetic CNS posts have been approved for University Hospital Limerick. Of these, two have been successfully recruited and will commence post over the coming months, the recruitment campaigns are currently ongoing for remaining posts. There are also three Diabetic Staff Nurse positions within the Diabetes Unit at UHL, two of these positions have been filled, the recruitment process is currently ongoing to fill the final post.

UL Hospitals Group recognises the need for additional resources within our adult diabetic services. This issue is a core focus for UL Hospitals Group and we are committed to improving this service for our patients. Developing services around insulin pump therapy and structured education in particular require us to fill further specialist posts, including nursing and dietitian posts.

While there is a specialist dietitian working with our paediatric diabetes patients, there is currently no specialist dietitian in post for adults with Type 1 Diabetes. Patients are seen by a ward dietitian as in-patients but there is no specialist dietetic care or outpatient appointments for adult diabetes patients in UHL.

Currently, the adult service in UHL is unable to commence adult patients on insulin pumps due to service demands. We do, however, accept patients established on pumps from elsewhere and these patients are managed under the care of a 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 University Hospital Limerick.

Developing our diabetes services is a core focus for UL Hospitals Group and we are committed to improving this service for our patients.

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