

CC/VAW/MC

Email: pgmidwestacute@hse.ie

29th September 2021

Mr Violet-Anne Wynne TD,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 44622/21

***To ask the Minister for Health if he will report on the lack of rheumatology consultants for the west of Ireland given there are only two consultants for the region which is having devastating delays for access to treatment for persons in County Clare; and if a commitment will be made to provide more consultants to address this issue.**

Dear Deputy Wynne

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.

I have been in contact with the relevant staff and I have been informed that two additional consultant rheumatologists have been successfully recruited at UL Hospitals Group and will commence post over the coming months.

This will bring to four the total number of consultant rheumatologists in the Midwest region. Once these consultants are in post additional outpatient clinics will take place across our hospital sites. This will assist with addressing our rheumatology outpatient waiting lists.

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