

CC/AK/MC

Email: pgmidwestacute@hse.ie

11th October 2021

Mr Alan Kelly TD,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Re: 46278/21

*** To ask the Minister for Health the number of full-time staff by job title working in the medical assessment unit at Nenagh General Hospital; and the number of vacancies by job title in tabular form. -Alan Kelly**

Dear Deputy Kelly,

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 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.

Currently, one permanent consultant post has been submitted by Medical Manpower, UHL, for approval at the National Consultant Appointments Advisory Committee. Should approval be forthcoming, we will advance to the next stage of the recruitment process to fill this post. While this process is ongoing, this post is being covered by locum/agency staff.

Please see below further details of the current staffing levels and vacancies in the MAU:

Post	WTE Value	Position filled
Consultant	1	No
Registrar	1	No
SHO	1	Yes
Clinical Nurse Manager 2	0.5	Yes
Clinical Nurse Manager 1	0.89	Yes
Register General Nurse	3.728	Yes

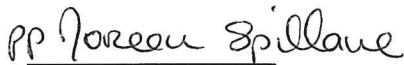
Clerical	1	Yes
Total	9.118	2

As you may be aware, the MAU in Nenagh Hospital was closed for a number of days this year due to staff shortages. The decision to close the MAU in Nenagh Hospital was taken in order to ensure patient safety. This was in spite of our efforts to secure cover through agency and offering overtime. The recruitment process is currently ongoing for a permanent registrar.

During this time, we encouraged GPs and out-of-hours doctors to refer appropriate patients to the MAUs at St John's Hospital, Limerick and Ennis Hospital. 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.

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