



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Office of the Chief Officer  
South East Community Healthcare  
HSE Offices, Lacken  
Dublin Road  
Kilkenny

Telephone +353 56 7784100

7<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Mr. Mattie McGrath TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ 4914/21**

**To ask the Minister for Health the breakdown of all facilities available to the public at Our Lady's Hospital, Cashel; the terms for attendance at each service; the numbers attending each service per year for the past five years; the number of staff working in each section; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy McGrath,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

*I have reviewed the matter and the following outlines the current position.*

At the outset, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic over the last 18 months along with the cyber-attack on the HSE in May of this year has significantly affected services and capacity throughout the healthcare system as well as data systems. Notwithstanding that we are able to provide the following information.

**Services for Older People**

**Cashel Residential (St Patrick's) Facilities**

As part of ongoing consultation with the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) and in response to Covid-19 risks and infection control guidance, arrangements were made in 2020 for a number of residents to move from St. Patrick's Hospital, Cashel to the newly refurbished residential facilities at Our Lady's Hospital Cashel (OLC). Older Persons Services provide long term residential care to 60 residents since moving there in June 2020 during the pandemic.

**Integrated Care Programme for Older People (STEP)**

The Tipperary Integrated Care Programme for Older People (ICPOP) occupies an area in OLC which provides Consultant and Multi-disciplinary team outpatient clinics to older persons. These are generally held twice weekly (Tuesdays and Thursdays) and access is via General Practitioner referral to the Consultant Geriatrician.

**Home Support Services**

The Home Support Office previously located at OLC (and subsequently relocated to Cnoc na Rí Centre, St. Patrick's Campus, Cashel) manages the organization and delivery of Home Support Services for the population of Cashel and the wider surrounding areas.

## **Disability Services**

In 2020 Disability Services and staff from Our Lady's Campus in 2020 relocated to the Cnoc Na Rí Centre based on the St. Patrick's Campus site, Cashel. The Centre is a base for many disability services including both Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs) and the disability operations teams. The services now incorporated in the Cnoc na Rí Centre include Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Psychology, Social Work, Dietician, Disability Services, Elderly Services and Primary Care Services.

The refurbished building is designed so that therapy/consulting rooms function mainly on the ground floor thereby allowing for:

- Improved access for clients, their families and carers
- Optimising infection control
- Data protection management
- Optimising use of clinical spaces for clients and ensuring clinical spaces are not taken up with administrative work in so far as possible.

Over the last 5 years the following staff were located at OLC prior to service relocation to Cnoc na Rí St. Patrick's Campus:

<b>Service</b>	<b>Staff Members</b>
Disability Speech and Language Therapy	4
Disability Occupational Therapy	3
Disability Physiotherapy	1
Disability Psychology	2
Disability Social Work	1
Disability Case Manager	1
Disability Administration	1

## **Primary Care Services**

A wide range of primary and community services continue to be provided on OLC. In addition agencies such as Cuan Saoir previously providing outreach from OLC are now providing the service from Cnoc na Rí.

## **Public Health Nursing**

Public Health Nursing (PHN) provide a broad range of nursing services including clinical care, child health, breastfeeding, continence advice and supplies, home support, child protection, aids and appliances provision, service enquiries, care support and advice. There are 3 full time Public Health Nurses working out of Our Lady's Cashel. Unfortunately the PHN Service does not have an electronic patient record system and therefore the number of patients attending this service is an indicative figure i.e. 10,400 per annum.

The Community Mental Health Nurse (Primary Care) provides services and in addition the Dietician and Area Medical Officer provide scheduled sessions at OLC.

## **Occupational Therapy**

Occupational Therapy Services are provided from Our Lady's Cashel (OLC) looking after clients living in the Cashel Primary Care Team catchment area. Clients can be seen either on site in OLHC or in their own homes, depending on the patient needs.

There is currently 1 full time Senior Occupational Therapist working in OLHC. There was an additional 3 full-time basic grade Occupational Therapists working with Children's Disability Services and these staff have now moved to new accommodation in Cnoc Na Rí, Cashel.

In the wider OLH campus, there is 1 full time Senior Occupational Therapist working with Slieveardagh Primary Care Team based in Cashel Health Centre and 1 full time Senior Occupational Therapist in the community adult mental health team based in Carraig Oir.

**Physiotherapy**

Physiotherapy provide an out-patient service from OLC. There is currently 1.8 whole time equivalent (WTE) Senior Physiotherapist and 0.6 WTE staff grade for this service. In Adult Neurological Network Primary Care Services there is 1 WTE Senior Physiotherapist.

Year	Nos attending the Physiotherapy Department
2016	2,858
2017	2,554
2018	2,150
2019	2,310
2020	1,216

**Caredoc Out of Hours GP Service and Community Intervention Team**

CareDoc GP Out-of-Hours (OOH) service use facilities at the OLC. In addition the Community Intervention Team (CIT) is also located at OL - this service provides high quality nursing care to patients in a community setting for a short period. With the provision of this CIT service, suitable patients can get back to their own home earlier from hospital (if clinically appropriate).

It is understood that Caredoc do not specifically collate data for the Cashel base, however they have advised the following relation to overall South Tipperary services. Working within the Caredoc South Tipperary GP OOH’s service there are 20 staff and within the Caredoc South Tipperary Community intervention team (CIT) service there are 8 staff. These integrated services are also supported by administration, IT and management based at the Caredoc Headquarters in Carlow.

The number of patients managed by the Caredoc (i) GP OOH’s service and (ii) CIT service for the South Tipperary area over the past 5 years are as follows:

**South Tipperary Caredoc GP Out of Hours**

2017	2018	2019	2020	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan to 3 <sup>rd</sup> Oct 2021
26,299	28,059	28,359	27,810	5,971

**South Tipperary Caredoc Community Intervention Team**

2017	2018	2019	2020	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan to 3 <sup>rd</sup> Oct 2021
2,082	2,323	2,990-	2,779	2,158

**Minor Injuries Unit**

The Minor Injuries Unit (MIU) is open for the treatment of minor injuries or ailments. There is a predefined treatment list, including the treatment of such incidents as stitches, dress minor wounds, cuts & grazes, wound infections etc. Serious injuries such as head wounds, chest pain, and pregnancy problems are not part of the MIU remit. The Minor Injuries Unit has the following complement of staff:

- 1 full time Registrar
- 2 part-time nurse covering 1 WTE
- Administration support for 4.5 days per week.

### Numbers attending the Minor Injury Unit 2016-2020

Year	No's attending the MIU
2016	4,166
2017	4,205
2018	4,181
2019	3,946
2020	3,042

### Radiology Services

Patients are referred by his/her GP for X-ray/ Ultrasound/Dexa or have attended the Minor Injury Unit in Cashel and require a diagnostic imaging examination. This service is supported as staffing availability allows by the Radiography and Administrative staff employed by Tipperary University Hospital acute services.

Year	Dexa	Ultrasound	General X-ray
2016	1,107	875	3,610
2017	388	570	3,577
2018	626	820	3280
2019	220	580	2,990
2020	1,213	1,405	3,705

### Mental Health Services

The purpose built Unit Lorica and Carraig Oir service are situated on the grounds of Our Lady's Cashel. Lorica is a 24 hour staffed hostel which opened in December 2007. There are 9 beds (7 currently occupied) and there are 7 nursing staff affiliated to this hostel. Carraig Oir is the Community Mental Health Team base for the Cashel sector which has approximately 300 patients on their books. We have 4 nursing staff affiliated here, 1 Clinical Nurse Manager, 1 Clinical Nurse Specialist and 2 Staff Nurses, 1 Psychiatrist, 1 NCHD, 1 Social Worker, 1 Psychologist and 2 administrative supports.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



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**Kate Killeen-White**  
**Chief Officer**  
**South East Community Healthcare**