



**Galway
University
Hospitals**

Ospidéal na h-Ollscoile Gaillimh
UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL GALWAY
MERLIN PARK UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

**General Manager's Office
University Hospital Galway
Newcastle Road
Galway
Tel: (091) 544200**

12th December, 2022

PQ Ref. 61376 /22

RE: To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 1942 of 26 July 2022, if the two new replacement orthopaedic operating theatres in Merlin Park Hospital are fully operational to date; the number of theatre sessions currently provided per week through the two new theatres; if he will provide an update on the recruitment of staff for the theatre sessions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Catherine Connolly

Dear Deputy Connolly,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply to you directly in the context of the request for information referenced above, the following outlines the situation.

Currently, staffing allows provision of 12 Theatre sessions per week, two of these sessions do not require Anaesthetics cover as local anaesthetic is administered.

Currently we cannot increase the number of sessions due to staffing constraints. There is a shortage of Anaesthesiologists and there are challenges in the recruitment of these posts. International recruitment for nurses is also in progress to facilitate staffing at full capacity.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Kane
General Manager
Galway University Hospitals