

CC/MQ/MC

Email: pgmidwestacute@hse.ie25th July 2022

Mr Maurice Quinlivan TD,
Dàil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 37471/22

To ask the Minister for Health the steps that are being taken to address the shortage of non-consultant hospital doctors at University Hospital Limerick; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Maurice Quinlivan

Dear Deputy Quinlivan,

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

UL Hospitals Group has identified a need to significantly increase the number of NCHDs employed at University Hospital Limerick in order to alleviate growing pressures and to support new consultant posts approved by government in recent years. An additional 68 NCHDs are required to adequately address the deficits identified by UL Hospitals Group. Please see below for a breakdown:

Staff Grade	WTE required
Registrar	31.00
Senior House Officer	31.00
Senior House Officer (ED)	6.00
Total	68.00

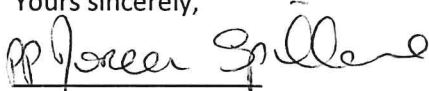
As you are aware, the HSE National Support Team is currently working with UL Hospitals Group and HSE Mid-West Community Healthcare on an integrated approach to meeting the unprecedented level of demand for

services at UHL and the wider region in recent months. This team will examine, among other things, how we optimise existing resources and improve patient flow. Workforce planning is also included under this programme of work, including the requirement to increase NCHD staffing levels in emergency and acute medicine. This is resource dependent and will require national approval.

Our Medical Manpower office continues to work to fill funded NCHD posts which are vacant, advertising extensively both in Ireland and abroad, and liaising with agencies through the national framework agreement. As we are currently managing the NCHD changeover, interviews are ongoing to fill posts and significant work is underway to ensure visas, work permits and clearances are in order for NCHDs coming from overseas.

I trust this clarifies the position, please contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,



Prof Colette Cowan
Chief Executive Officer
UL Hospitals Group