



**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**

28th July, 2022

REF: PQ 39765/22

RE: To ask the Minister for Health if he will advise on staffing levels in the radiology unit in University Hospital Galway; if there has been a reduction in staffing levels; if this is having any impact on availability of radiology appointments; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Kerrane,

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

In response to your query, currently there is an approximate 30% reduction in the number of Radiology staff in UHG. This is having a significant impact on outpatient waiting lists across radiology modalities in particular CT, Ultrasound and Fluoroscopy.

Many of the posts now vacant were previously filled with very experienced Radiographers with specialist modality training and it can take up to 3 to 4 months to fully train up new recruits. Currently, we have WTE Approved 80.15, however there are also absences as a result of sick leave, maternity leave etc. and so a WTE level of 58.4 is currently delivering our Radiography service across all modalities.

We are actively running rolling recruitment campaigns in order to fill all current vacant Radiography posts including specialist posts. These campaigns include international candidates. We have already confirmed 9 posts with start dates in August and September, with another 3 to take up post in September subject to satisfactory clearances.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Kane

General Manager
Galway University Hospitals