



**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**

27<sup>TH</sup> July, 2022

PQ Ref. 41323 /22

RE: To ask the Minister for Health the status of the two new replacement orthopaedic operating theatres in Merlin Park Hospital; if they are fully operational to date; the number of theatre sessions currently provided per week through the two new theatres; the number of theatre sessions currently provided per week in the hospital as a whole; 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.

The Orthopaedic Operating Theatres on the Merlin Park site, are operational since Friday 10th June 2022. Currently, staffing allows provision of 10 theatre sessions per week allowing 1 theatre to be opened 5 days a week. Staffing was originally put in place for 16 sessions however due to vacancies, we currently only have 11.7 WTE available. We have approval for an additional 7.2 WTE to staff 20 sessions but recruitment of these posts are being progressed.

GUH Theatre sessions, which are staffed currently and available, facilitates 112 sessions per week, there is a gap of 8 sessions per week due to vacancies, retirements and resignations. In addition, there are 10 Surgical Day Theatre sessions and 10 Endoscopy sessions plus 10 Gynae theatre sessions. We also have 20 orthopaedic sessions per week for Orthopaedic Trauma plus 24/7 Emergency On Call and Cardiac have 10 sessions per week plus 24/7 On Call cover.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Kane

General Manager

Galway University Hospitals