

CC/ROD/MC

Email: [pqmidwestacute@hse.ie](mailto:pqmidwestacute@hse.ie)21<sup>st</sup> March 2022Richard O'Donoghue TD  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

PQ 12162/22

**\*To ask the Minister for Health when University Hospital Limerick will become a DAFNE-accredited diabetes centre; the number of full-time consultant endocrinologists, diabetes specialist dieticians and clinical diabetes nurse specialists currently in the adult outpatient diabetes clinic in each hospital in the hospital group; and the details of same. -Richard O'Donoghue**

Dear Deputy O'Donoghue,

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.

We have made positive progress recently in recruiting staff for our adult diabetic services. A second consultant endocrinologist took up post on the 1st October 2020. In addition, two further consultant endocrinology posts have been approved for University Hospital Limerick. These posts have been advertised and interviews have recently taken place.

In December 2020, UL Hospitals Group received funding to recruit three additional dietetic posts for the treatment of adult diabetes. This funding was made available through the national clinical programme for diabetes. These posts include two senior dieticians and one staff grade dietician. These posts have now been filled.

The Adult Diabetes Service is also supported by a dedicated team of Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS) and Staff Nurses. Four Diabetic CNS posts have been approved for University Hospital Limerick. Following recruitment campaigns, all four Clinical Nurse Specialists are now in place. There are also three Diabetic Staff Nurses in post at University Hospital Limerick.

Please see below for a staff breakdown by site in tabular form:

Role	WTE UHL	WTE Nenagh Hospital	WTE Ennis Hospital	WTE UMHL
Endocrinologists	2	-	-	-
Specialist Dieticians	2	-	-	-
Staff Grade Dietician	1	-	-	-
Clinical Nurse Specialist	4	-	1	1
Staff Nurses	3	-	-	-
Admin Staff	2	-	-	-

In relation to DAFNE, I can confirm that a Consultant Endocrinologist from UL Hospitals Group has been in contact with DAFNE UK to initiate the required staff training to become a DAFNE accredited centre. A proposal has been received and is currently being reviewed. It is not possible at this stage of the process to indicate when UL Hospitals Group will become a DAFNE accredited centre.

Developing our diabetes services continues to be a core focus for UL Hospitals Group and we are committed to improving this service for our patients.

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

Yours sincerely,



**Colette Cowan**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**UL Hospitals Group**