

CC/JC/MC

Email: pgmidwestacute@hse.ie

11th April 2022

Mr Joe Carey TD,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 15900/22

*** To ask the Minister for Health if he will respond to a query (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Details supplied: Could you please provide a breakdown of services available at Ennis General Hospital and the numbers of consultants and staff associated with each service

Dear Deputy Carey,

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.

Ennis Hospital currently has 4.5 WTE consultant physicians employed to provide overnight care for general medicine/geriatric patients across the 50 single en-suite, in-patient beds located within the hospital.

In addition, Ennis Hospital has a number of visiting consultants from University Hospital Limerick who attend the hospital to provide the following services:

- Dermatology (Day Surgery & OPD)
- General Surgery (Day Surgery, Endoscopy & OPD)
- Colorectal Surgery (Day Surgery, Endoscopy & OPD)
- Gynaecology (Day Surgery & OPD)
- Rheumatology (OPD)
- Cardiology (OPD)
- ENT (OPD)
- Vascular Surgery (Day Surgery & OPD)
- Paediatrics (OPD)
- Endocrinology (OPD)
- Diabetes (OPD)
- Palliative Care (OPD)
- Gastroenterology (Endoscopy & OPD)
- Nephrology (OPD)
- Maxillofacial (Day Surgery & OPD)
- Urology (Day Surgery, Endoscopy & OPD)

Ennis Hospital has benefited from significant capital investment in recent years. The new Outpatients Department opened on Monday, March 29th 2021. The new OPD in Ennis has 15 clinical rooms, in addition to a phlebotomy bay, four waiting areas, offices and staff changing rooms.

The enhanced facilities for patients and staff will allow for the future extension and expansion of services for the overall improvement of the patient experience at Ennis Hospital. Greater capacity, in addition to facilities that are future-proofed with ongoing advances in telehealth, will assist with efforts to reduce waiting periods and manage waiting lists. The development of the facility has been a priority for UL Hospitals Group in improving local access to non-acute patient care.

UL Hospitals was delighted to receive a funding allocation from the National Treatment Purchase Fund (NTPF) to support the provision of additional slots in the Medical Assessment Unit (MAU). The MAU at Ennis Hospital provides diagnosis and treatment for patients referred with medical conditions including chest infections, COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), pneumonia, urinary tract infections, fainting episodes, clots in the leg, anaemia, or non-acute cardiac problems.

The Medical Assessment Unit at Ennis Hospital has run as a seven-day service (8am-8pm Monday to Friday, and 10am-6pm Saturday and Sunday) since 2016 and is the only such unit within UL Hospitals Group to operate on a seven-day basis.

A new Injury Unit at Ennis Hospital opened recently, bringing an immediate improvement in the clinical environment and experience for healthcare staff and the thousands of patients who use this service every year.

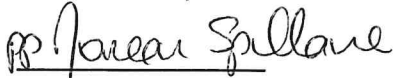
The new Injury Unit has five separate patient assessment bays, with the highest standards in Infection, Prevention & Control compliance. This dedicated infrastructure will make for a dramatic improvement in the clinical environment for staff, as well as enhancing the experience for patients who use the Injury Unit. The new Ennis Hospital Injury Unit cost just under €2m—funded from the HSE capital budget—and the project was managed by the HSE Capital and Estates Department.

I am pleased to let you know that a theatre upgrade was recently approved for Ennis Hospital as part of the HSE's Capital Programme for 2022. The approved capital budget for this project is €9.95m and is currently at the design stage.

Separately, UL Hospitals Group recently appointed Dr Terry Hennessy, Consultant Cardiologist as Clinical Lead for our Model 2 Hospitals and Integrated Care. Our Model 2 Hospitals provide vital inpatient medical beds, medical assessment units, injuries units and day case surgeries. Dr Hennessy is working closely with all of our hospital sites to implement positive change and to ensure their development.

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