

CC/VAW/MD

Email: pgmidwestacute@hse.ie

5th October 2022

Ms Violet-Anne Wynne TD,
Dàil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 48000/22

To ask the Minister for Health the reason for the closure of Ennis injury unit on 20 August 2022; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Violet-Anne Wynne

Dear Deputy Wynne,

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.

There have been some occasions in recent weeks where staffing issues resulted in the temporary closure of Injury Units in Nenagh, Ennis and St John's hospitals. These regrettable service disruptions have all been communicated to the public in advance through the media and on social media, including advice on the most appropriate alternatives to access care.

These staffing issues have been related in the main to NCHD resources post the annual changeover and to COVID-19. Plans are at an advanced stage to stabilise medical staffing for these important services and we expect that these temporary closures will be kept to a minimum going forward.

These recent disruptions in service are unfortunate as the increase in activity through all three Injury Units is a very positive development. In 2021, a total of 33,585 patients attended our Injury Units, meaning almost one in three patients who needed unscheduled care in our Group appropriately accessed same in Ennis, Nenagh or St John's. This exceeded the level of presentations across our Injury units prior to the pandemic. In the first five months of 2022, attendances at Ennis (+26%) and Nenagh (+60%) Injury Units have increased significantly.

The new Injury Unit which opened at Ennis Hospital in April 2022 represents a €2 million investment by the HSE in improving the clinical environment and the patient experience for these important services. We are committed to growing these services in our model 2 hospitals in the long-term.



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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

