

CC/MMcN/MC

Email: pgmidwestacute@hse.ie

18th October 2022

Mr Michael McNamara TD,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

PQs 48120/22

***To ask the Minister for Health if he will put in place a contingency plan to ensure that staffing levels are in place at Ennis injury clinic at all times following its closure at short notice on 20 August, 2022; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Michael McNamara**

Dear Deputy McNamara,

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.

In relation to the temporary closures over the summer, including the day in question at Ennis Hospital, these related in the main to NCHD resources post the annual changeover and to COVID-19. Services at our Injury Units can also be affected by deficits in nursing and allied health (e.g. radiographers) staffing resources.

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. There has been increased activity in our Injury Units with an annual growth in attendances (YTD July 31st) of 36% at Nenagh Injury Unit so far this year and 19% at Ennis Injury Unit. In May 2022, both Ennis and Nenagh has their busiest months to date with over 1,200 attendances to each injury unit.

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."



Working together, caring for you

Ospidéal na hOllscoile, Luimneach,
Bóthar Naomh Neasáin, Tuar an Daill, Luimneach V94 F858
Teil: 061 301111 Facs: 061 301165

University Hospital Limerick,
St. Nesson's Road, Dooradoyle, Limerick V94 F858
Tel: 061 301111 Fax: 061 301165

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