

CC/NH/MC

Email: pgmidwestacute@hse.ie

18th October 2022

Ms Neasa Hourigan TD,
Dàil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 49925/22, PQ 49926/22, PQ 49922/22, PQ 49923/22

*** To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons with diabetes who are awaiting a first appointment to the adult outpatients diabetes clinic in any of the UL Hospital Group hospitals; the number of persons waiting for time periods (details supplied) in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. - Neasa Hourigan**

***To ask the Minister for Health the process employed by UL Hospitals Group in moving persons from the waiting list to the adult outpatients diabetes clinic list; the way in which the waiting list is monitored; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Neasa Hourigan**

*** To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons attending University Limerick Hospital Group adult diabetes service and using insulin pump therapy to manage their condition; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Neasa Hourigan**

***To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons attending University Limerick Hospital Group paediatric diabetes service and using insulin pump therapy to manage their condition; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Neasa Hourigan**

Dear Deputy Hourigan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

I have been in contact with the relevant staff and I have been informed that there are currently 57 people attending the adult diabetes service at UL Hospitals Group using insulin pump therapy to manage their condition.

In addition, there are 249 patients actively attending the paediatric diabetes service at UL Hospitals Group, 73 of whom are using insulin pump therapy (29%) to manage their condition

The below table outlines the number of patients waiting for a first appointment at UL Hospitals Group for the diabetic outpatient service:

Wait time:	Number of Patients:
0-3 months	83

3-6 months	78
6-12 months	107
12-18 months	96
18-24 months	75
24-36 months	133
36-48 months	96
48+ months	185
Total	853

In addition, please see below the process employed by UL Hospitals Group in moving persons to the outpatient diabetes waiting list:

- Upon receipt of a GP referral the patient is added to the waiting list
- A doctor triages the referral as AAU (Admission Avoidance Unit), urgent, soon or routine
- AAU & urgent referrals are taken off the waiting list and an appointment date is issued as a matter of priority
- Soon and routine referrals remain on the waiting list until an appointment date can be issued
- If a patient's GP is concerned and the patient's symptoms have deteriorated since the first referral was sent, an updated referral should be sent to UL Hospitals Group for triage

We have made positive progress recently in recruiting staff for our adult diabetic services. Following successful recruitment campaigns, a Consultant Endocrinologist commenced post at University Hospital Limerick in May 2022. An additional Consultant Endocrinologist is also due to take up post in October 2022.

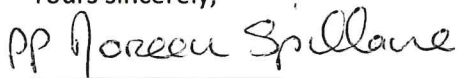
The Adult Diabetes Service is also supported by a dedicated team of Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS) and Staff Nurses. Four Diabetic CNS posts have been approved for University Hospital Limerick. Following recruitment campaigns, all four Clinical Nurse Specialists are now in place. There are also three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

University Hospital Limerick recently became a DAFNE accredited centre. Staff training is currently taking place. We anticipate that this programme will commence before the end of the year.

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,



Prof Colette Cowan
Chief Executive Officer
UL Hospitals Group