



**Galway
University
Hospitals**

Ospidéal na h-Ollscoile Gaillimh
UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL GALWAY
MERLIN PARK UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

**General Manager's Office
University Hospital Galway
Newcastle Road
Galway
Tel: (091) 544200**

20th September, 2022

PQ Ref. 44219 /22

RE: To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 1942 of 26 July 2022, if the two new replacement orthopaedic operating theatres in Merlin Park Hospital are fully operational to date; the number of theatre sessions currently provided per week through the two new theatres; if he will provide an update on the recruitment of staff for the theatre sessions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Catherine Connolly

Dear Deputy Connolly,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply to you directly in the context of the request for information referenced above, the following outlines the situation.

The Orthopaedic Operating Theatres on the Merlin Park site, are operational since Friday 10th June 2022. Currently, staffing allows provision of 10 theatre sessions per week allowing 1 theatre to be opened 5 days a week. Staffing was originally put in place for 16 sessions however due to vacancies, we currently only have 12.11 WTE available out of 14.5 WTE. We continue to recruit for both new and already vacant posts.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Kane
General Manager
Galway University Hospitals