

CC/JC/MC

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13<sup>th</sup> March 2023

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

PQ 10161/23, PQ 10162/23

**To ask the Minister for Health the requirement in terms of staffing to upgrade the local injuries unit at Ennis Hospital to open on a 24/7/365, days a year basis (details supplied).**

**To ask the Minister for Health the requirement in terms of staffing to upgrade the medical assessment unit at Ennis Hospital to open on a 24/7/365, days a year basis (details supplied).**

**Details supplied: Note staff required not monetary value of same**

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.

There are currently no plans to extend the opening hours at Ennis Injury Unit.

Any consideration of changes in criteria or hours of operations for Injury Units will be made following a review of all Injury Units currently being undertaken by the HSE. This review is examining how we can maximise the use of injury units both in terms of both the types of patients seen and also the geographical spread. The MidWest is already relatively well served with three Injury Units operating at Ennis, Nenagh and St John's hospitals.

The new €2m Injury Unit at Ennis Hospital opened in April 2022, bringing an immediate improvement in the clinical environment and experience for healthcare staff and the thousands of patients who use this service every year. It includes five patient assessment bays, with the highest standards in infection prevention and control compliance. There is also a brightly decorated waiting room and a separate triage area. Other utilities include a clinical room, storeroom, senior nurse manager's office space, and a nurses' station.

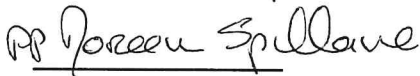
Ennis Injury Unit had its busiest year to date last year. During 2022, a total of 11,854 patients attended the service there, representing a 25% increase on 2021. Our three Injury Units at Ennis, Nenagh and St John's collectively saw 38,523 patients last year, representing a 30% increase on 2021.

We await the completion of the national review on Injury Units and we will reassess operations and any additional resources in the light of its findings.

In relation to the Medical Assessment Unit at Ennis, I can confirm that we have recently submitted a bid to the HSE National Acute Division for €5.2m for additional resources. Additional staff would allow us to extend the operating hours and open the Medical Assessment Units in Nenagh and St John's to seven days a week and to increase the number of slots currently available for referrals. The bid also includes permanent funding for Ennis MAU to secure the extended hours and weekend service into the future.

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**