

CC/VAW /MC

Email: [pgmidwestacute@hse.ie](mailto:pgmidwestacute@hse.ie)

06<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Ms Violet-Anne Wynne TD,  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

PQ 8616/23

**To ask the Minister for Health if he will confirm the number of beds available at Ennis medical assessment unit; the number of those that have been ringfenced for 999 transfers; 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.

The Medical Assessment Unit at Ennis Hospital has eight cubicles and two single rooms for the assessment of appropriate medical patients.

As you are aware, the Medical Assessment Unit (MAU) pathway for 112/999 patients commenced at Ennis Hospital on January 9<sup>th</sup> 2023.

It allows stable medical patients who meet the agreed clinical criteria to be treated in a Model 2 hospital. A key element is a telephone referral from the treating paramedic to the receiving MAU doctor, which ensures that the right patient is brought to the MAU.

The introduction of the new ambulance pathway at Ennis MAU has not required an expansion in physical capacity. The demand on the MAU arising from the introduction of the pathway is such that it can be met with existing resources.

Attendances at Ennis MAU grew from 6,830 in 2021 to 7,768 last year, an increase of 14%. Our three MAUs at Ennis, Nenagh and St John's saw 12,737 patients in 2022, an increase of 19% on 2021.

Our plan is to continue to increase activity across all three of our MAUs. I can confirm that we have recently submitted a bid to the HSE National Acute Division for €5.2m for additional resources to increase MAU staffing in our Model 2 Hospitals.

Additional staff would allow us to extend the operating hours and open the Medical Assessment Units in Nenagh and St John's to 7 days a week and increase the number of slots currently available to GPs, ShannonDoc and NAS paramedics. The bid also includes permanent funding for Ennis MAU to secure the extended hours and weekend service into the future.



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

**University Hospital Limerick,**  
St. Nessian'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**

