

CC/ML/MC

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

08<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Mr Michael Lowry TD,  
Dàil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

RE: PQ 9008/23, PQ 9009/23, PQ 9010/23

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of minor injuries units in hospitals across County Tipperary; the hours and days each minor injuries unit operates; the number of patients treated in each unit in each of the years 2020, 2021, 2022 and to date in 2023, in tabular form; the treatments that are available at these minor injuries units in County Tipperary; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Michael Lowry**

**To ask the Minister for Health if the HSE has any plans to extend the opening hours of each minor injuries unit which operates in County Tipperary; if the opening hours will be extended in 2023 to include weekends; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Michael Lowry**

**To ask the Minister for Health if the HSE has any plans to increase the number of minor injuries units in County Tipperary; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Michael Lowry**

Dear Deputy Lowry,

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.

UL Hospitals Group has governance for one Injury Unit in Co Tipperary located at Nenagh Hospital. Nenagh Injury Unit is open 8.00am to 8.00pm, 7 days a week, including on Bank Holidays and on Christmas Day. Governance is provided by a consultant in emergency medicine and the service is delivered by Emergency Care Physicians and GPs. Advanced Nurse Practitioners also assess and treat patients and refer accordingly.

The Injury Unit at Nenagh Hospital has just had its busiest year to date. During 2022, a total of 10,216 patients attended our Injury Unit in Nenagh, representing a 30% increase on 2021. Please see below for a breakdown of the number of patients treated in Nenagh Injury Unit between 2020 - 2023, in tabular form.

Year	Number of patients seen
2020	6,925
2021	7,860
2022	10,216
2023 (up to the 7 <sup>th</sup> March 2023)	1,698

Injury units can treat the following for patients aged five and over:

- broken bones to legs, from knees to toes
- broken bones to arms, from collarbone (clavicle) to fingertips
- all sprains and strains
- minor facial injuries (including oral, dental and nasal injuries)
- minor scalds and burns
- wounds, bites, cuts, grazes and scalp lacerations (cuts)
- small abscesses and boils
- splinters and fish hooks
- things stuck in eyes, ears or nose
- minor head injuries (fully-conscious patients, who did not have loss of consciousness or vomit after the head injury)

For further information on what may and may not be treated at an Injury Unit, please visit the following link.

<https://www2.hse.ie/emergencies/when-to-visit-an-injury-unit/#What-injury-units-can-treat>

Please note, there are no plans at present to increase the opening hours of Nenagh Injury Unit. In addition, UL Hospitals Group has no plans to increase the number of Injury Units operating in the North Tipperary region at present. We understand that a review is ongoing at national level regarding the future role of Injury Units and Medical Assessment Units including clinical criteria and hours of operation.

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**