

CC/MMcN/MC

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12th July 2023

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

PQ 32690/23

To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide the rate of theatre utilisation in UHL Dooradoyle for 2022; and if he will provide the rate of theatre utilisation in Ennis, Nenagh and St. John's hospitals, respectively, for 2022.

Dear Deputy McNamara,

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.

I have been in contact with the relevant staff and I have been informed that it is not possible to provide the data requested as this information is not recorded in such a way that it can be easily generated.

I can advise that in 2022 the Executive Management Team of UL Hospitals Group commissioned Grant Thornton to undertake a comprehensive review of theatre utilisation across our hospital sites with a view to providing recommendations for improvement. This review analysed theatre data for hospitals including UHL, Ennis and Nenagh. It is important to note that this required a manual review of all data held on our theatre management system Meridian.

The below tables provide a breakdown of theatre utilisation at UHL, Ennis and Nenagh between January and May 2022.

UL Hospitals Group overall elective theatre utilisation:

	Available elective theatre time (mins)	Operation time (mins)	% utilisation of available elective theatre time
January	53,983.50	23,016.00	42.64%
February	91,761.75	50,429.00	54.96%

March	104,078.2 5	52,373.00	50.32%
April	83,946.00	46,665.00	55.59%
May	98,519.25	48,268.00	48.99%

University Hospital Limerick elective theatre utilisation:

	Available elective theatre time (mins)	Operation time (mins)	% utilisation of available elective theatre time
January	42,126.00	14,898.00	35.37%
February	49,266.00	27,124.00	55.06%
March	56,151.00	26,289.00	46.82%
April	46,716.00	27,421.00	58.70%
May	51,994.50	28,645.00	55.09%

Nenagh Hospital elective theatre utilisation:

	Available elective theatre time (mins)	Operation time (mins)	% utilisation of available theatre time
January	2,524.50	1,432.00	56.72%
February	10,582.50	8,329.00	78.71%
March	11,934.00	9,574.00	80.22%
April	11,118.00	7,881.00	70.89%
May	11,373.00	9,214.00	81.02%

Ennis Hospital elective theatre utilisation in 2022:

	Available elective theatre time (mins)	Operation time (mins)	% utilisation of available theatre time
January	1,045.50	820.00	78.43%
February	6,209.25	3,953.00	63.66%
March	6,209.25	3,699.00	59.57%
April	5,712.00	3,296.00	57.70%
May	6,591.75	3,066.00	46.51%

UL Hospitals Group achieved a median average utilisation across all elective theatres (excluding emergency, trauma and eye theatres) of 50.32% between January and May 2022. The report also highlights that unscheduled care demand at UHL had a significant impact on utilisation during 2022.

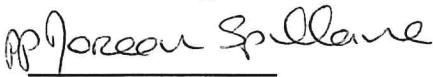
In addition, the report found that UL Hospitals Group has a flexible and resilient workforce and that staff are committed to providing the best possible service to patients. The report also notes that patient safety is keenly observed across our theatre complexes. The report recommends a number of measures in order to improve utilisation across the group including:

- The development of a theatre improvement programme
- The development of clear and agreed measures, roles and processes for monitoring theatre performance and improvement
- A review of location, organisation and storage of equipment
- The use of currently available data to devise average procedure times to feed into list planning
- A review of pre-operative assessment capacity and processes
- A review to causes of delays to turnaround times with a view to implementing change

The report also recommends the implementation of an effective theatre management system for recording and monitoring theatre performance at UL Hospitals Group going forward. This will allow theatre utilisation data to be compiled in a more efficient way going forward. This process is at the early stages of the procurement process.

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