

CC/AK/MC

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

10<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Mr Alan Kelly TD,  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 36331/23

To ask the Minister for Health the number of WTE staff, by job title, working in the accident and emergency department at University Hospital Limerick; the number of vacancies, by job title; and when these vacancies will be filled, in tabular form. -Alan Kelly

Dear Deputy Kelly,

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.

Please see below for a breakdown outlining the number of staff working in the Emergency Department (ED) in University Hospital Limerick across all grades and disciplines, also included below are the current vacancies within the ED.

Emergency Department	Headcount July 2023	Current Vacancies
Nursing & Midwifery	98.19	47.67
Medical & Dental	46	9
Health Care Assistants	21.54	7.72
Management / Admin	35	0
Patient & Client Care	2	0
General Support	22	1

UL Hospitals Group is constantly recruiting for staff across all grades and disciplines. We are trialing several initiatives to attract and retain staff and we are committed to having a well-resourced workforce to support the patient needs of the Mid-West.

The national Safer Staffing Nursing initiative has been completed across 13 inpatient wards and our Acute Medical Unit. We are currently implementing Safer Staffing in our ED before the initiative is rolled out in our Model 2 hospitals.

The ceiling of funded nursing posts in our ED has recently been raised due to the Safer Staffing initiative. This has temporarily increased the level of vacancy in the ED as recruitment for newly approved posts is ongoing. Of the current 47.67 nursing vacancies in the ED, 21.5 of these were recently approved under Safer Staffing. Recruitment for these posts is in progress, and we look forward to welcoming 11 new staff nurses to the ED this month.


In addition, UL Hospitals Group is recruiting all nursing graduates as they qualify from the University of Limerick in September 2023. Three Advanced Nurse Practitioners have also been recently approved for the ED.

There are currently nine vacant NCHD (non-consultant hospital doctor) posts, all of which are at the final stages of the recruitment process.

Shortages of healthcare workers are being experienced by healthcare providers around the world while the lifting of pandemic restrictions and renewed travel opportunities for these highly skilled staff are an additional challenge in the Irish context.

I trust this clarifies the position, please contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,



**Professor Colette Cowan**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**UL Hospitals Group**