

CC/MB/MC

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14th July 2023

Mr Martin Browne TD,  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

**PQ 31823/23**

**To ask the Minister for Health to provide an update on the status of the allocation of staffing resources to secure extended service provision at Nenagh MAU; the targets set to meet these commitments; and if he will make a statement on the matter**

Dear Deputy Browne,

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.

As you are aware, recent funding approval of €5.2m by the HSE's National Acute Division has allowed the Medical Assessment Units at St John's, Ennis and Nenagh hospitals to move to a seven-day service. Nenagh MAU is currently open 7 days per week between 8am – 8pm.

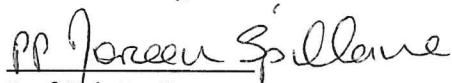
Recruitment is underway for an additional 51.45 WTE across a number of specialties for our MAU services. Nenagh MAU will benefit from an additional 21 WTE. Additional resources will include medical doctors, nurses, allied health professionals, health and social care professionals and administrative staff. To date, 2.5 WTE nursing resources have been recruited for Nenagh MAU. All additional posts are currently being advanced through the recruitment process.

As more of these staff take up post, the number of additional slots available for medical assessment will increase. Once all staff are in post, the overall effect of this investment will be the creation of an additional 7,176 slots per annum across the three sites. This will significantly enhance the acute medical healthcare referral alternatives available to GPs over weekends.

In 2022, 12,737 patients were referred to the MAUs in the three hospitals, which have played an integral role in ED avoidance, patient flow to Model 2 hospitals, and appropriate community referrals.

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