

CC/AK/MC

Email: pgmidwestacute@hse.ie

31st May 2023

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

RE: PQ 25257/23

To ask the Minister for Health the number of WTE ICU nurses in University Hospital Limerick in the years of 2021, 2022 and to date in 2023, in tabular form; if this number will be further increased; and if so, when. - 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 approved ICU nursing posts at University Hospital Limerick in 2021, 2022 and to date in 2023. Also included below are the ICU nursing deficits for those years.

	2021	2022	2023 (as of May)
Approved posts (including staff nurses and clinical nurse managers)	88.30	88.30	91.83
Deficits	8.92	0	11.78

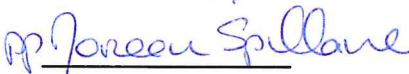
UHL has a nursing complement of 5.6 nurses per ICU bed, this is in line with national policy. Any plans to increase this number would be decided by the HSE nationally.

Recruitment of ICU nurses is an international issue and UL Hospitals has made a number of efforts to secure staffing through bespoke national and international recruitment campaigns to fill deficits. These campaigns have enjoyed some success in spite of the challenging recruitment environment. These efforts are ongoing and continue to attract nurses to the area of critical care.

A job in the ICU remains very much sought after by new nursing graduates, a number of whom have expressed interest in working in the unit and will commence in the final quarter of this year. There is a very robust training programme for ICU nurses new to the unit where they are supported by six clinical educators who are of great benefit to our patients and staff alike.

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