

CC/AK/MC

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

04<sup>th</sup> October 2023

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

RE: PQ 40674/23

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of health recruitment fairs in the UK that officials from University Hospital Limerick were in attendance, either in-person or virtually in the years of 2022 and to date in 2023, to seek to recruit additional nurses, doctors, physiotherapist, dentists, and so on, to work in UHL; if so, the number of jobs offered, per recruitment fair; the number of jobs offered that were accepted, per recruitment fair; and if any officials from UHL plan to be present at any additional health recruitment fairs before the end of the year in the UK. -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.

I have been in contact with the relevant staff and I have been informed that UL Hospitals Group attended four recruitment fairs in the UK in 2022, these included recruitment fairs in:

- Stirling, Scotland (Mar 2023)
- Birmingham, England (September 2022)
- London, England (Jan 2023)
- Newport, Wales (September 2022)

To date, three additional staff nurses have been recruited from the Stirling recruitment fair but unfortunately none have been recruited from the other events. The Recruitment Department also attended a Careers Fair in the University of Limerick on the 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023. There are no plans to attend any further recruitment fairs this year.

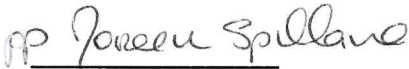
Separately, our Recruitment Department run a number of international campaigns. For example, staff from UL Hospitals Group travelled to India in January 2023 with a view to recruiting nursing staff. From this outreach, more than 70 nurses were panelled for posts at UL Hospitals Group.

All recruited nurses are required to register with the Nursing Midwifery Board Ireland (NMBI) and complete an examination with the RCSI before taking up post. On commencing post, candidates are required to take part in a 12 week adaption course in UHL.

As you are aware, the labour market is very competitive, particularly in the area of skilled medical personnel. This challenge is not unique to the HSE but rather is being felt on an international scale. Nonetheless, ULHG is constantly recruiting for new development posts and filling any deficits which may have arisen. We are pioneering 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.

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**