

CC/MB/MC

Email: pgmidwestacute@hse.ie

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

PQ 13011/24

To ask the Minister for Health the nature of the plans being considered to use the new community nursing unit in Nenagh to act as a step-down facility for certain patients at University Hospital Limerick; the engagement that the HSE has had with management and staff at St. Conlon's community nursing unit in relation to the impact this will have upon them; the projected impacts this decision will have for the availability and number of community nursing unit beds in the region; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Martin Browne

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.

The HSE is seeking to support UL Hospitals Group by temporarily running the new Community Nursing Unit (CNU) in Nenagh as a step down sub-acute facility.

Nenagh CNU has capacity for 50 residents. An additional 65 WTEs are required to facilitate the opening of this facility as a CNU.

The additional 65 WTEs are now approved and a recruitment plan is under development. Initial indications indicate a timeline of approximately one year to recruit these staff.

On this basis, the REO decided to repurpose the facility in the interim pending HIQA registration and the recruitment of staff.

This temporary measure is intended to provide immediate services to elderly people in north Tipperary who have been identified for sub-acute and rehabilitation needs.

This unit will be used for a period of about one year as a step down sub-acute facility which will be run by a private provider with expertise in such services. A procurement process has commenced to identify a suitable provider in line with HSE procurement rules. The facility will be a collaborative partnership between the HSE and the successful provider.

It is intended that this arrangement will be reviewed within one year and that Nenagh CNU will open 12 – 18 months after the contract commences with the private provider. This interim use will greatly support the region pending the completion of the first of two new 96 bed blocks for UHL scheduled to be completed in early 2025.

The Mid-West Regional Executive Officer (REO) met with union representative bodies on the 19th & 21st March 2024, among the issues discussed was the interim arrangements for Nenagh CNU. The REO has directed the establishment of a HSE Mid West union forum, with representative bodies meeting regularly with members of Mid West Acute and Community Senior Leadership Teams. The first meeting of this engagement is due to take place on the 23rd April 2024.

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