

CC/VAW/MC

Email: pgmidwestacute@hse.ie

25th May 2024

Ms Violet-Anne Wynne TD,
Dàil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

PQ 21366/24

To ask the Minister for Health the number of WTE staff, by job title, working in the emergency department at University Hospital Limerick; the number of vacancies, by job title; when these vacancies will be filled; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Wynne,

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 the current number of vacant posts among selected staff categories in the Emergency Department at University Hospital Limerick as of the 30th April 2024.

Vacancies UHL ED		
Staff Category	Funded WTE	Vacancies
NCHDs	47	1
Consultants	12	0
Nursing & Midwifery	149.86	24.46
Healthcare Attendants (HCAs)	29.26	3.79

Please note that the above data includes both permanent vacancies, where a post is unfilled, as well as temporary vacancies, which are mitigated through the significant use of agency, overtime and redeployment.

In addition, the Emergency Department is one of a number of areas which is exempt from the recruitment pause for key patient-facing roles. Other such critical services include midwifery and intensive care.

As such, UL Hospitals Group continues to progress recruitment campaigns in those areas and we continue to recruit nurses from international markets in parallel with local and national recruitment campaigns.

Please note that the Emergency Department has seen a considerable increase in its staffing levels in the last two years. Funded NCHD posts have risen from 26 to 47 since January 2023. The number of funded nursing posts has risen from 113.5 WTE to just under 150 WTE in the same period through the implementation of Safer Staffing and the recruitment of additional nurses to care for admitted patients in the ED. An additional two consultants in emergency medicine have been recruited as well as an additional three consultants in paediatric emergency medicine.

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

Yours sincerely,



Ms Colette Cowan
Chief Executive Officer
UL Hospitals Group