

**REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM WEST – 24<sup>th</sup> June 2014**  
**QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES**

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| W52Q1393      | Replacement for the Haematologist at Letterkenny General Hospital.   | <b>Cllr Gerry McMonagle</b>    | <b>2</b>        |
| W52Q1394      | Staff and equipment levels at the Oncology Unit at Letterkenny General Hospital.   | <b>Cllr Gerry McMonagle</b>    | <b>2</b>        |
| W52Q1395      | Payment of staff wages at Donegal Hospice by the HSE after the end of June 2014.   | <b>Cllr Gerry McMonagle</b>    | <b>2</b>        |
| W52Q1396      | Temporary closure of the Infusion Unit at Nenagh Hospital.   | <b>Cllr Malachy McCreesh</b>   | <b>2</b>        |
| W52Q1397      | The up-to-date situation regarding refurbishment works at Corrandulla Health Centre.   | <b>Cllr Mary Hoade</b>         | <b>3</b>        |
| W52Q1398      | Figures in E.D. Department in Galway for May and June and if any Summer ward closures planned?   | <b>Cllr Mary Hoade</b>         | <b>3</b>        |
| W52Q1399      | What are the current numbers on in-patient and out-patients (ED) waiting lists in the Galway region?   | <b>Cllr Mary Hoade</b>         | <b>3</b>        |
| W52Q1400      | Restoration of dental services in Headford .   | <b>Cllr Mary Hoade</b>         | <b>3-4</b>      |
| W52Q1401      | Completion and future of Ballinasloe Training programme and posting of circa 20 Ambulance Paramedics?  | <b>Cllr Donagh Killilea</b>    | <b>4</b>        |
| W52Q1403      | The Procurement Assessment Documentation for Review of Maternity Services in the West, Tender information, and allowances paid to the Chairman since his appointment.  | <b>Cllr Padraig Conneely</b>   | <b>4-5</b>      |
| W52Q1404      | Income of UHG Car Park, income use and car park contractor payments for 2011,12,13?  | <b>Cllr Padraig Conneely</b>   | <b>5</b>        |
| W52Q1405      | Total Private Health Insurance fees outstanding to HSE West due to non-signatures and total amount due.  | <b>Cllr Padraig Conneely</b>   | <b>5</b>        |
| W52Q1406      | The number of FOI requests received; granted, refused or part granted and non-compliance with statutory timeframe from January 2013 to date?   | <b>Cllr Padraig Conneely</b>   | <b>5-6</b>      |
| W52Q1407      | Mayo General Hospital Budget for 2014 versus 2013 budget and any consequential service reductions?   | <b>Cllr Michael Kilcoyne</b>   | <b>6</b>        |
| W52Q1408      | Secretarial staff levels at Mayo General Hospital lab?   | <b>Cllr Michael Kilcoyne</b>   | <b>6</b>        |
| W52Q1409      | Short supply of BCG vaccine?   | <b>Cllr Michael Kilcoyne</b>   | <b>6</b>        |
| W52Q1410      | Final report date for review of maternity services within the group, copies to the members and who set the terms of reference?   | <b>Cllr Michael Kilcoyne</b>   | <b>6</b>        |
| W52Q1411      | Clarification of the waiting- list, assessment procedure, number of applicants under the National Nursing Home Support Scheme and/or the Fair Deal System and the figures relating to nursing homes take- in and family home sales or charges levied that have resulted. | <b>Cllr Catherine Connolly</b> | <b>7-8</b>      |
| W52Q1412      | Bed numbers and up-take in Áras Mhic Dara, waiting list and operation of same, progress on the staffing issue?   | <b>Cllr Catherine Connolly</b> | <b>8</b>        |
| W52Q1413      | Update re the Psychiatric Unit in Galway, bed numbers and up-take, admissions, addressing of the Mental Health Commission concerns.  | <b>Cllr Catherine Connolly</b> | <b>8-9</b>      |
| W52Q1414      | Transfer and listing of Services from the burned down Drug and Alcohol Treatment Centre.   | <b>Cllr Catherine Connolly</b> | <b>9</b>        |

**REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM WEST – 24<sup>th</sup> June 2014**  
**QUESTIONS**

| NUMBER   | QUESTION   | RAISED BY                        |
|--|--|----------------------------------|
| W52Q1392   | What efforts are HSE West/North West making to ensure that Letterkenny General Hospital gets a fair allocation of Junior Doctors from the Training Colleges considering that they are heavily subsidised from public monies? | <b>Cllr Gerry<br/>McMonagle</b>  |
| <p>The Allocation of Junior doctors to Letterkenny General Hospital is defined by the training colleges. WNWHG maintain ongoing dialogue with the colleges to ensure the supply of adequate number of junior doctors throughout the year. Policy states that training places must be advertised, interviewed and allocated by the colleges.</p> <p><b>Bill Maher, CEO, West North West Hospital Group</b></p>  |  |                                  |
| W52Q1393   | What plans has HSE West/North West to replace the Haematologist currently on maternity leave at Letterkenny General Hospital?  | <b>Cllr Gerry<br/>McMonagle</b>  |
| <p>There is no haematologist currently on leave, but can we remind members that this Question does not fall within the remit of the Regional Health Forum as per Clause 42-(2)-(d) of the Health Act 2004, which states:</p> <p>2) The function of a regional health forum is to make such representations to the Executive as the forum considers appropriate on the range and operation of health and personal social services provided within its functional area, but it may not consider or make representations concerning any of the following matters:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(d) a matter relating to or affecting the terms or conditions (including those relating to superannuation benefits, disciplinary procedures or grievance procedures) of a contract of employment that the Executive has entered into or proposes to enter into</p> <p><b>Bill Maher, CEO, West North West Hospital Group</b></p> |  |                                  |
| W52Q1394   | Are there sufficient staff and equipment (Oncology Chairs) at the Oncology Unit to deal with the demand for Oncology Services at Letterkenny General Hospital?   | <b>Cllr Gerry<br/>McMonagle</b>  |
| <p>The number of patients requiring treatment in our Oncology Unit fluctuates, staffing levels are reviewed on a regular basis to ensure patients presenting to this service receive the treatment they required. The Oncology Unit was designed several years ago and with the increase in demand for these services there are plans to develop a larger unit. However, there are currently an adequate number of chairs in the unit for patients.</p> <p><b>Bill Maher, CEO, West North West Hospital Group</b></p>  |  |                                  |
| W52Q1395   | Can the HSE West/North West clarify the position in relation to the continued payment of staff wages at Donegal Hospice by the HSE after the end of June 2014?   | <b>Cllr Gerry<br/>McMonagle</b>  |
| <p>The Hospice in Letterkenny, Co Donegal is operated by the HSE and all HSE employees will continue to receive their statutory entitlements to staff wages, etc..</p> <p><b>John Hayes, Area Manager, Donegal PCCC</b></p>  |  |                                  |
| W52Q1396   | Is the problem that resulted in the temporary closure of the Infusion Unit at Nenagh Hospital (lack of a Registrar) resolved?  | <b>Cllr Malachy<br/>McCreesh</b> |
| <p>The Infusion Unit at Nenagh Hospital was temporarily closed on week commencing 12<sup>th</sup> May 2014. The problem arose as a result of a resignation of the existing medical registrar doctor and our inability to secure a locum doctor. A Registrar doctor was secured and the Infusion Unit returned to normal service on week commencing 19<sup>th</sup> May 2014.</p> <p><b>Ms. Ann Doherty, CEO, UL Hospitals.</b></p>   |  |                                  |

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| W52Q1397   | Can you confirm to me what is the up-to-date situation regarding the Corrandulla Health Centre. At the last Forum meeting I was informed that money was made available for the refurbishment works? When is this work due to commence? Can you confirm when you intend to open this health centre? | <b>Cllr Mary Hoade</b> |
| <p>An application has been made to the HSE Estates Dept for funding of €35,000 for refurbishment of this Health Centre and a plan for the work has been agreed. We await confirmation, from national level, as to whether funding is being allocated and intend to commence the work once funding is received.</p> <p>In the meantime, an assessment was undertaken with a view to carrying out minor interim works on the walls and floor which would enable the Health Centre to open. However, this is not possible owing to the nature of the work required and refurbishment works must await funding from national level.</p> <p><b>Catherine Cunningham, Area Manager, Galway Roscommon PCCC</b></p>  |  |                        |
| W52Q1398   | What is the current situation regarding figures in E.D. Department in Galway for the months of May and June. Is there any planned closure of wards in the hospital for the Summer months?  | <b>Cllr Mary Hoade</b> |
| <p><b><u>ED Presentations May 2014.</u></b></p> <p>The average number of patients on trolleys overnight in GUH for May 2014 was 16. The Patient Flow Response Team are focusing their efforts on reducing patient experience times. The patient experience time is the length of time a patient spends on a trolley while awaiting admission. Across the country this is measured 6 hours and 9 hours. During the month of May almost 61% of all patients passed through the Emergency Department within 6 hours and 76% passed through within 9 hours. It is worth noting that the performance of the WNW HG with regard to the 6 hour patient experience time was better than any of the other hospital groups around the country last month.</p> <p><b><u>ED Presentations June 2014</u></b></p> <p>The trolley wait/patient experience data for June is not yet available.</p> <p><b><u>Is there any planned closure of wards in the hospital for the Summer months?</u></b></p> <p>While there are no planned closures for the Summer months, we will be examining opportunities to reduce 7 day beds down to 5 day beds where this is both safe and appropriate.</p> <p><b>Bill Maher, CEO, West North West Hospital Group</b></p> |  |                        |
| W52Q1399   | What is the current numbers on in-patient and out-patients (ED) waiting lists in the Galway region?  | <b>Cllr Mary Hoade</b> |
| <p><b><u>GUH Inpatient Waiting List</u></b></p> <p>At the end of April there were 906 adults breaching the eight month target on the in-patients/day case waiting list for the WNW HG. This represents 8.7% of our inpatient/day case waiting list.</p> <p><b><u>GUH Outpatient Waiting List</u></b></p> <p>At the end of April there were 6,220 patients breaching the 12 month out-patients waiting list target across the WNW HG. This represents 10% of the total waiting list.</p> <p><b>Bill Maher, CEO, West North West Hospital Group</b></p>  |  |                        |
| W52Q1400   | Can you confirm that dental services will be restored in Headford as confirmed to me at the last Forum meeting?  | <b>Cllr Mary Hoade</b> |
| <p>The Headford Dental Clinic requires some refurbishment work in order to bring it fully up to Health and Safety and HIQA standards. It is anticipated that repairs will be completed by the end of the summer. At that stage, the Dental Team can again provide dental assessments and care from Headford Health Centre.</p> <p>In order to provide a fair and equitable service across the entire county the school dental service has been re-organised.</p> <p>All of the 283 primary schools (including special schools) will now have access to dental assessment at 6<sup>th</sup> class. The 6<sup>th</sup> class was chosen as children have usually lost all of their baby teeth at that stage and the dentists can assess and treat their permanent teeth. By reorganising our reduced staff numbers we can provide an assessment</p>  |  |                        |

service to every 6<sup>th</sup> class child and we can provide an emergency service for children who have severe pain or have had an accident that affects their teeth. This is often a same day service (Monday to Friday).

This new system allows us to continue to provide orthodontic assessment and onward referral if required to the Orthodontic Department.

The Department will also continue to provide:

- A dental service for patients who are medically compromised, some who require a general anesthetic.
- Referrals to University Hospital Galway (GUH) oral maxillofacial and orthodontic departments for advice, assessment and treatment.
- Referrals for the extraction only service in hospital theatre UHG.

**Catherine Cunningham, Area Manager, Galway Roscommon PCCC**

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| W52Q1401 | Could the relevant official confirm that there are currently circa 20 staff being trained in Ballinasloe for positions as paramedics to the Ambulance service and have these staff been allocated to any posts in any areas, if so when does the training of such students hope to be completed and are there plans to continue a training programme in Ballinasloe into the future, and when do students know where they will be posted? | <b>Cllr Donagh Killilea</b> |
|----------|---|-----------------------------|

There are currently 13 HSE National Ambulance Service (NAS) student paramedics undertaking the first year of training in Ballinasloe Campus. This group of students will complete their training in early 2016. No decision has been made on allocation following their qualification.

There are also 9 HSE National Ambulance Service paramedic interns completing their second year of training which comprises of a 12 month internship. This group are currently allocated to the NAS South Area. This group are expected to qualify in early 2015 with their deployment locations yet to be confirmed.

There is no immediate plan for a further paramedic course at the Ballinasloe Campus of the NAS College. The campus will continue to be part of the National Ambulance Training College for the foreseeable future and will be used for a variety of other training courses as part of the current training plan of the NAS.

**Padraig O’Riordan National Ambulance Service.**

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| W52Q1403 | I wish to request the following – a copy of the Procurement Assessment Documentation for Review of Maternity Services in the West, the names of those who assessed the Tender, the cost of the Tender and the name of the successful Tender Company and the total allowances paid to the Chairman as Chairperson of the West/ Northwest Hospital Group since his appointment. | <b>Cllr Padraig Conneely</b> |
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The West/North West Hospitals Group selected D&F Health Partnership Ltd trading as the Health Partnership to carry out a review of the Maternity Services across the Group in November 2013. This company was selected because of their considerable experience within the health sector and the urgent requirement to commence the review in response to a series of reports into Ireland’s Maternity Services including the HIQA Report.

The D&F Health Partnership Ltd proposal was at a competitive price and amounted to €20,000 excluding VAT. It is acknowledged that the National Financial Regulations require that expenditure in the region of €5,000 to €25,000 be subject to market testing and it requires that this is carried out through the receipt of three written quotations. It is acknowledged that in this case only one written quotation was received. The Director General of the HSE requested that the Internal Audit function of the HSE carry out a review into the procurement of these services in May 2014. An Internal Auditor visited Galway University Hospitals on the 20th May 2014 to examine documentation and to interview various Managers at the West/North West Hospitals Group. Internal Audit subsequently reported to the Director General of the HSE..

The role of the Chair of the West / North West Hospitals Group is unpaid. The Chairman was reimbursed for expenses accrued travelling to meetings in the role of Chair of the Group as would be normal practice for any person appointed to the board of a public body.

The amount reimbursed to the Chairman over the last 3 years is €28,113.60 and the breakdown is as follows:

|      |           |
|------|-----------|
| 2012 | 4,619.16  |
| 2013 | 16,924.29 |
| 2014 | 6,570.15  |

The Board comes under the remit of the Comptroller & Auditor General and is subject to audit.

**Bill Maher, CEO, West North West Hospital Group**

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| W52Q1404 | What is the total income from UHG car park for 2011, 2012 and 2013 – How much is paid to car park contractor for each year and what is car park income used for by UHG? | <b>Cllr Padraig Conneely</b> |
|----------|---|------------------------------|

| University Hospital Galway | Carpark Net Income | Contractor Management Fees |
|----------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| YEAR                       | AMOUNT             | AMOUNT                     |
| 2011                       | €743,984           | €39,089                    |
| 2012                       | €820,556           | €39,088                    |
| 2013                       | €852,702           | €39,089                    |

Car park income is used exclusively for the provision of services at GUH.

**Bill Maher, CEO, West North West Hospital Group**

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| W52Q1405 | The total amount owing to UHG / Merlin Park from Private Health Insurance companies due to non-signatures from Consultants or others and the total amount due in the HSE West and what is the highest amount from named Consultant awaiting signature for period January 2012 to date. | <b>Cllr Padraig Conneely</b> |
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- Total due to GUH due to non-signature of consultants: €7.7 million (€3.6m is less than 60 days old)
- Total due to WNWHG due to non-signature of consultants: €13.4m (€5.9m is less than 60 days old)
- Highest amount of individual unsigned claims: €344K (€278K or 80% is less than 60 days old)

Note: Figures relate to balances at end of April 2014.

There will always be a level of debt outstanding and 60 days is consistent with claim type debt. Figures are consistent with other groups throughout the country.

It is worth noting that €1.716 million is pended for GUH by the Insurance companies. The total pended for the WNW Hospital Group is €3.838 million.

**Tony Canavan, COO, West North West Hospital Group**

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| W52Q1406 | The number of FOI requests received by HSE West from January 2013 to date. How many requests were granted, refused or part-granted. The number of FOI requests that were not responded to within the statutory timeframe of the Act and the reason for delay in replying to FOI requests. | <b>Cllr Padraig Conneely</b> |
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|--|-------------|
| FOI decision making carry over from 2012 | 648         |
| FOI's received in 2013                   | 2572        |
| <b>Total of FOI's on-hand in 2013</b>    | <b>3220</b> |
| Request granted                          | 1856        |
| Request Part-Granted                     | 248         |
| Request Refused                          | 84          |
| Request Transferred or Withdrawn         | 44          |

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| FOI decision making carry over from 2013                      | 988         |
| FOI's received up until April 30 <sup>th</sup> 2014           | 770         |
| <b>Total of FOI's on-hand in 2014 (April 30<sup>th</sup>)</b> | <b>1758</b> |
| Request granted   | 560         |
| Request Part-Granted  | 66          |
| Request Refused   | 49          |
| Request Transferred or Withdrawn                              | 20          |

Current data capture does not indicate time compliance or reasons for delays for every FOI request received. From recent sample audits we are aware that there was a 70-75% compliance rate with FOI statutory timeframes. There are many and varied reasons as to why timeframes may not be met, including: voluminous/large number of paper & electronic records to read and process under the legislation, sensitive records and the manner in which they are provided, consent and legal issues.

**Christopher Rudland, Regional Manager Consumer Affairs HSE West**

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| W52Q1407 | What is the exact reduction in monetary terms in the overall budget for Mayo General Hospital for 2014 as against the 2013 budget and as a result of this what services will be reduced at the hospital to operate within the reduced budget? | <b>Cllr Michael Kilcoyne</b> |
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The budget for Mayo General for 2014 is reduced by €2,483m as of 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2014 versus 2013. Mayo General Hospital is part of the West/North West Hospitals Group. The Service Plan for the year was launched in February 2014 and is reviewed by the Board of the WNWHG on a monthly basis. While the financial position continues to be very challenging, we have not yet varied our Service Plan.

**Bill Maher, CEO, West North West Hospital Group**

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| W52Q1408 | Why is there no secretarial staff for typing out reports from the lab at Mayo General Hospital for the consultants and GPs around the county which has resulted in people not receiving their diagnosis for tests/ biopsies from the 4 <sup>th</sup> June to date? | <b>Cllr Michael Kilcoyne</b> |
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There are no delays in patients receiving diagnosis following tests/biopsies or in typing reports at Mayo General Hospital.

The Laboratory at Mayo General Hospital is an Irish National Accreditation Board (INAB) accredited laboratory and meets the highest standards in relation to turnaround times for biopsies and test results.

**Bill Maher, CEO, West North West Hospital Group**

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| W52Q1409 | The principal medical officer has notified parents that the BCG vaccine is in short supply and therefore the vaccination is not being given to children at this time. What efforts are being made to source supplies and what are the health implications for children who do not receive the BCG vaccine? | <b>Cllr Michael Kilcoyne</b> |
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There is an international shortage of BCG vaccine and every effort is being made at a national level to source this. As soon as it arrives children will receive the vaccine. Supplies currently in stock are being used for new born babies. The HSE are working hard with the supplier with a view to having further supplies in the country by mid July.

**Frank Murphy Mayo Area Manager**

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| W52Q1410 | When will the final report be available in relation to the review of maternity services at hospitals within the group and who set the terms of reference and can a copy of same be circulated to the members of this forum? | <b>Cllr Michael Kilcoyne</b> |
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The West/North West Hospitals Group has decided to suspend the public and stakeholder engagement processes of its review of maternity services and to subsume its efforts into the national review of maternity services. The Department of Health, the HSE and all staff concerned are being informed of this decision through the normal communications channels.

A copy of the Terms of Reference will be circulated to Members of the Regional Health Forum as requested.

**Bill Maher, CEO, West North West Hospital Group**

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| <b>W52Q1411</b> | Please clarify the position re the waiting list and assessment procedure for applicants seeking assessment under the National Nursing Home Support Scheme and/or the Fair Deal System and/or any other new system that has come into being in Galway City and County including details of how many applicants have applied for assessment for each of the last five years to date, how many have been processed and successful and to which nursing home(s) the applicants have gone to and please clarify the number of family homes if any that have been sold and/or subject to a charge giving the amount of each charge pursuant to the Fair Deal/the National Nursing Home Support Schemes and/or any other scheme which allows for this process. | Cllr Catherine Connolly |
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The priority for Services for Older People in the current year is the development of an integrated model of care with a strong emphasis on home care and other community support services as well as intermediate and rehabilitation services, in order to avoid hospital admission or, where acute care is required, to support early discharge through appropriate and timely services, while maximising access to appropriate quality long term residential care when it becomes necessary. The HSE is maximising the potential of older people, their families and local communities to maintain people in their own homes and communities as appropriate. There are increased options available to support older people to remain at home in the current year e.g. provision of intensive home care packages, funding of additional intermediate care and community support beds etc., and as set out in the HSEs National Service Plan, wait times for long term residential care is increasing.

The funding available for the Nursing Homes Support Scheme in 2014 is €938.7m (€974m - 2013) which is planned to support 22,061 people by year end (23,007 supported at end of 2013).

In April 2014, the scheme funded 22,380 long term public and private residential places (HSE West - 5,747). The scheme continues to take on new clients within the limits of the resources available, in accordance with the legislation. In the first four months of 2014, 2,202 new clients were funded under the scheme in public and private nursing homes. Over the past number of years, a national placement list has been in operation by the HSE to ensure that placements are available on an ongoing basis and that the HSE operates within the resources available.

The wait time for the release of funding under the scheme at the end of April 2014 was 7 weeks which is the same wait time as at April 2013. Currently, the wait time for persons receiving funding approval at present is 10 weeks.

#### Statistics in relation to Galway City & County

##### *No. of Applications Received:*

2009 – 383  
2010 – 959  
2011 - 509  
2012 - 552  
2013 - 585  
2014 - 195 (Jan/April)

##### *No. of Applications Processed (Approved):*

2009 – 77  
2010 – 1002  
2011 - 435  
2012 - 444  
2013 - 479  
2014 - 139 (Jan/April)

##### *No. of Applications Rejected (Does not include applications withdrawn/not followed through by client):*

2009 – 0  
2010 – 3  
2011 – 28  
2012 - 27  
2013 - 28  
2014 - 5 (Jan/April)

*Assignments to Public and Private Nursing Homes*

| <i>Public</i> | <i>Private</i> |
|---------------|----------------|
| 2009 - 4      | 2009 - 238     |
| 2010 - 38     | 2010 - 426     |
| 2011 - 36     | 2011 - 358     |
| 2012 - 51     | 2012 - 365     |
| 2013 - 48     | 2013 - 394     |
| 2014 - 23     | 2014 - 74      |

*No of Charging Orders raised on land based assets in the State for Galway City & County Applicants:*

*Oct 2009/April 2014 - 159 [On average, 10% of applicants nationally proceed with the Nursing Home Loan (Ancillary State Support)]*

*Note: The amount of the charge depends on the level of loan payments made by the HSE to the nursing home on behalf of the person while they are in care under the scheme.*

**Catherine Cunningham, Area Manager, Galway Roscommon PCCC**

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| W52Q1412 | Please clarify the position in relation to Áras Mhic Dara and in particular the complement of beds there, the actual number occupied and the number unoccupied together with the number of applicants waiting for a bed and where they are waiting and whether they have been assessed under the Fair Deal/the National Nursing Home Support Scheme and or whatever is the relevant scheme and most particularly why are they waiting and what progress if any has been made since the Forum was informed the issue was one of lack of staff? | Cllr Catherine Connolly |
|----------|---|-------------------------|

The bed complement in Aras MacDara is 55 and 42 beds are currently occupied.

There is a waiting List of 5 people all of whom are on the National Waiting List for Fair Deal Funding. There is no Waiting List for Nursing Home beds. All eligible applicants are offered a bed in a public or private care facility. Where applicants cannot be accommodated in their location of first preference, they are offered accommodation in their second preference location. Where a patient in a private Nursing Home subsequently advises that they have settled there and no longer wish to move to a Community Nursing Unit originally listed as a first preference, they are taken off the waiting list for the CNU.

Regarding staffing, 3 Multi Task Attendants have been recruited as part of the Intern Programme as well as 1 Graduate Staff Nurse since the previous update was provided. Two patients have been admitted since the recruitment of these staff.

Work is due to commence in Aras Mac Dara in order to bring the CNU into compliance with HIQA standards. We will also be making an application to HIQA to reduce the number of beds registered in order to comply with these regulations.

The plans are to be reviewed within the next few weeks and the number of beds to be registered will be agreed at that point.

**Catherine Cunningham, Area Manager, Galway Roscommon PCCC**

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| W52Q1413 | In relation to the ongoing urgent representations re the Psychiatric Unit in Galway what is current level of beds available, how many are occupied, how many patients have been refused admission and/or referred elsewhere and if so where, due to overcrowding and/or lack of staff and in particular how have the ongoing concerns of the Mental Health Commission clearly set out in four annual reports to date been addressed. | Cllr Catherine Connolly |
|----------|--|-------------------------|

There are 45 admission beds in the Department of Psychiatry, GUH. There are currently 37 beds occupied, with 8 vacancies. On average there have been 8 vacant beds from mid May to mid June. No individual who has been assessed clinically as requiring admission has been refused admission or referred elsewhere.

Contingency plans exist for admission across the Galway / Roscommon area if necessary but this has not been



required since the reconfiguration of services.

Regarding Mental Health Commission Inspections, when inspected in February 2013, the Dept was not fully compliant with a number of requirements. The main issue related to having a multidisciplinary care plans for each patient. Individual multidisciplinary care plans are now in place for all patients. This was confirmed by the MHC in a re-inspection they carried out in November last year.

The following is an extract from the MHC re-inspection report (November 2013 re-inspection visit) :

**OVERALL CONCLUSIONS**

*Each resident had an individual care plan and the standard of the ICP records, including resident input, was excellent. The Approved Centre met the condition attached to its registration.*

An audit process has been put in place within the Department to monitor the care planning and process and Care Plans are audited on a frequent basis.

The other area non compliance in the Feb 2013 report was the physical unit itself. A new unit is being provided and work is due to get underway once the enabling works on site have been completed.

**Catherine Cunningham, Area Manager, Galway Roscommon PCCC**

|          |   |                               |
|----------|---|-------------------------------|
| W52Q1414 | Please confirm the position re the services that were provided in the building in Merlin Park which burned down and remains closed listing out the services provided therein and whether they have ceased and/or have been replaced and if so where, including the status of the 4 week outpatient treatment programme which was available and particularly to patients on medical cards, the status of the antabuse Clinic which was catering for up to 50 people and the position re direct referrals from GPs and in particular whether this service has also been terminated. | <b>Clr Catherine Connolly</b> |
|----------|---|-------------------------------|

At the time of the fire in Merlin Park, one alcohol counsellor was providing a service from there with a second one on long-term leave. In line with the national policy, Vision for Change, the Alcohol Counsellors employed by the Mental Health Services will be assigned to Community Mental Health Teams, as is standard across the wider Galway / Roscommon area, to provide services to individuals with co-morbid mental health and addiction issues.

Individual with addiction problems can also be referred to the Primary Care Addiction Services available in the community through GP referral.

In regard to Antabuse provision, assessment is being undertaken to identify clients attending mental day centres for Antabuse therapy to identify ( a ) those who can be monitored by their GP ( b ) those who can be served by their Community pharmacy and ( c ) those who come under the umbrella of the Mental Health services

At present, this includes 1 individual in Clifden, and 3 in Carraroe. This service has not been terminated.

**Catherine Cunningham, Area Manager, Galway Roscommon PCCC**