

## Minutes of Regional Health Forum West AGM meeting held on Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2022 at 2.00pm in the Connacht Hotel, Galway.

Miontuairiscí chruinniú an Fhórait Sláinte Réigiúnaigh a tionóladh Dé Máirt, 22ú Feabhra 2022 ag 2.00 i.n. in Óstán Chonnacht, Gaillimh.

**Chairperson: Cllr Gerry McMonagle**

Members Present	Members Present (continued)	Members Absent
Cllr Finola Armstrong McGuire	Cllr Michael Kilcoyne	Cllr Pat Burke
Cllr Declan Bree	Cllr Donagh Killilea	Cllr Bill Chambers
Cllr Ciaran Brogan	Cllr Cillian Murphy	Cllr Tom Crosby
Cllr Liam Carroll	Cllr Declan McDonnell	Cllr Frankie Daly
Cllr John Carroll	Cllr Martin McLoughlin	Cllr John Egan
Cllr Tom Conaghan	Cllr Dr Evelyn Francis Parsons	Cllr Seán Hartigan
Cllr John Connolly	Cllr Peter Roche	Cllr Seamus Morris
Cllr Gerry Crawford	Cllr Peggy Ryan	Cllr Dara Mulvey
Cllr John Cummins	Cllr Tony Ward	Cllr Dan McSweeney
Cllr Albert Doherty		Cllr Martina O'Connor
Cllr Paddy Farrell	<b>Apologies</b>	Cllr John O'Hara
Cllr Blackie Gavin	Cllr Felim Gurn	Cllr John Sheahan
Cllr Donal Gilroy	Cllr Daithí Ó Cualáin	Cllr Kevin Sheahan
Cllr Liam Grant		

### **In attendance:**

Tony Canavan, Executive Lead, Regional Health Forum/CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group  
Ann Cosgrove, Chief Officer, Saolta University Health Care Group  
Breda Crehan-Roche, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare West  
Dermot Monaghan, A/Chief Officer, CHO, Area 1  
JJ McGowan, Interim Chief Ambulance Officer, Operations West  
Charlie Meehan, Head of Service, Mental Health, CHO, Area 2  
Mary Warde, Head of Primary Care, CHO2  
Niall Beatty, Business Manager CHO2  
Norah Owens, Regional Health Forum Office  
Marian Cavanagh, Regional Health Forum Office  
Anna Lyons, Regional Health Forum Office

### **786/97/22 Nominations for Chairperson of Regional Health Forum**

Cllr Albert Doherty nominated Cllr Gerry McMonagle who was seconded by Cllr Ciaran Brogan.  
Cllr Gerry McMonagle was unopposed and deemed elected as the Chairperson of the Regional Health Forum.

### **787/97/22 Nominations for Vice Chairperson of Regional Health Forum**

Cllr Blackie Gavin nominated Cllr Donagh Killilea and he was seconded by Cllr Michael Kilcoyne.  
Cllr Donagh Killilea was also elected unopposed.

### **788/97/22 Nominations for Chairperson of Regional Health Forum Committee**

Cllr Tony Ward nominated Cllr Declan McDonnell and he was seconded by Cllr John Carroll.  
Cllr. Declan McDonnell was elected unopposed.

### **789/97/22 Nominations for Vice Chair of Regional Health Forum Committee**

Cllr Donagh Killilea nominated Cllr Michael Kilcoyne and he was seconded by Cllr. Blackie G. Gavin.  
Cllr. Michael Kilcoyne was elected unopposed as Vice Chair of the Regional Health Forum Committee.

### **790/97/21 Matters Arising:**

Cllr Declan Bree requested a response from PCRS - National Medical Card Office with how many medical card holders were prescribed Anxiolytics (Valium, Xanax etc) and antipsychotics and the total cost of same in 2019 and 2020.

**Action:** Breda Crehan-Roche to respond to Cllr D Killilea on the reduction of bed places in HSE WEST CNU's in Co Galway/Mayo/Roscommon in response to guidelines from HIQA?

### **791/97/22 Chairman's Business:**

The Chairperson, Cllr McMonagle extended sympathy to the McGuinness family on the death of the former Regional Health Forum West member, Cllr Bernard McGuinness on behalf of all members. A minute silence was observed.

### **792/97/22 Questions:**

#### **W97Q3151: Drumshambo Health Centre, Co. Leitrim:**

**Action:** D Monaghan to revisit this response and revert to Cllr Armstrong McGuire, in particular re any planned extension as the Health Centre is small.

#### **W97Q3154: PHN's Galway City & County:**

Cllr Donagh Killilea asked this question to be moved to the March meeting.

#### **W97Q3155: X-Ray Unit for Tuam:**

**Action:** J Hoare to revert to Cllr Donagh Killilea on the overall costings of PPP contracts for the development of the Radiology diagnostics in the Tuam Primary Care Centre.

#### **W97Q3158: Mental Health Supports for Leaving Cert Students**

**Action:** Charlie Meehan agreed to revert to Cllr Francis Parsons with contact details of Mindspace, Jigsaw and Westbewell and see if there is any specific there re student support.

#### **W97Q3161: Waiting list for hip and knee replacement in Mayo**

**Action:** A Cosgrove to revert to Cllr Kilcoyne on the possible number of procedures going forward that could be performed on a weekly basis.

#### **W97Q3162: Overall number of Dentists in Co. Mayo**

**Action:** Breda Crehan-Roche to revert to Cllr Kilcoyne with total number of Dentists in Mayo – not just those who accept Medical Card patients.

#### **W97Q3166: Home Help Services in Co Roscommon**

**Action:** Breda Crehan-Roche agreed to keep Cllr T Ward updated on the progress with the delivery of home help hours in Roscommon.

**W97Q3172: Spina Bifida/Hydrocephalus Care CHI:**

CHI to advise Cllr Doherty what number of beds increase would allow an increase in treatment when this information is available following the quarterly figures and the Service plan allocations.

**Action:** CHI to provide Cllr A Doherty with this information.

Tony Canavan suggested CEO of CHI give another presentation at an RHF Committee to update the members on the Children's Hospital.

**Action:** RHF Office to organise

**W97Q3173 Support services/day services in Carndonagh/Clonmany**

**Action:** Dermot Monaghan to update Cllr Doherty as to what number of clients that can be provided with support services in Clonmany Day Centre while alternative accommodation is being sought for Carndonagh Day Care Services.

**W97Q3174: Riverwalk House Carndonagh:**

**Action:** D Monaghan to update Cllr A Doherty on the progress with securing accommodation for service users in Riverwalk House.

**W97Q3180: Primary Care Centre for Oranmore**

**Action:** Joe Hoare to contact Cllr Liam Carroll directly on the progress of a Primary Care Centre in Oranmore.

**W97Q3195: Number of referrals made to CAMHS 2019-2021**

**Action:** Breda Crehan-Roche to provide Cllr John Connolly with the number of referrals made to CAMHS 2019 – 2021.

**W97Q3202: A&E Sligo University Hospital:**

**Action:** A Cosgrove to revert to Cllr D Gilroy with the National Patient Experience Times (PET) targets.

**W97Q3204 Safeguarding Teams**

**Action:** Dermot Monaghan agreed to provide the North West RHF Members with then contact detail of the Safeguarding Teams in CHO1 area.

**793/97/22 Motions:**

**W97M114: Catheterisation laboratory (Cath Lab) service at University Hospital Sligo**

This Motion was proposed by Cllr Declan Bree and seconded by Cllr Donal Gilroy.

**Action:** T Canavan agreed to update the members following the outcome of the National Review currently underway.

**W97M115: CAMHS Services are functioning effectively**

This Motion was proposed by Cllr Albert Doherty and seconded by Cllr Tom Conaghan.

The motion was unanimously carried by the Members.

**Action:** RHF Office to forward this Motion to the Minister for Health, Deputy Stephen Donnelly, Minister of State, Department of Health, Deputy Mary Butler and Paul Reid, CEO, Health Service Executive.

**794/97/22 Any Other Business:**

Standing Orders were extended at 5pm. This was proposed by Cllr Tony Ward and seconded by Cllr Declan McDonnell.

**795/97/22 Date & Time of Next Meeting:**

**Future Meetings:**

The next **Regional Health Forum West** meeting will take place on Tuesday 22nd March, 2022 at 2pm.

The next **Regional Health Forum Committee** Meeting will take place on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2022 at 2pm (venue to be decided).

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

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Cathaoirleach/Chairman

*Adopted at the Regional Health Forum West meeting*

**QUESTIONS RECEIVED**  
**REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM WEST – 22<sup>nd</sup> MARCH 2022**

<b>Number:</b>	<b>QUESTION</b>	<b>RAISED BY</b>	<b>Page No</b>
<b>W98Q3206</b>	The number of full time permanent public health nurses and community nurses covering Galway City and County at present (by area).	<b>Cllr D Killilea</b>	<b>4-5</b>
<b>W98Q3207</b>	Supports for Ukraine at a National level	<b>Cllr M O Connor</b>	<b>5-6</b>
<b>W98Q3208</b>	Private services in Galway to provide/maximise oncology treatment	<b>Cllr M O Connor</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>W98Q3209</b>	Temporary helicopter landing site at Shantalla Community Park	<b>Cllr M O Connor</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>W98Q3210</b>	What recent progress has been made on development of the Primary Care building proposed for Seamus Quirke Road	<b>Cllr M O Connor</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>W98Q3211</b>	Voluntary and community groups in mental health in the Mid West	<b>Cllr S Morris</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>W98Q3212</b>	Can I have a breakdown of the numbers of young people in the Midwest region (Tipperary Clare and Limerick) who are currently awaiting appointments with CAMHS	<b>Cllr S Morris</b>	<b>7-8</b>
<b>W98Q3213</b>	What services are in place in Tipperary to deal with drug and addiction issues	<b>Cllr S Morris</b>	<b>8-11</b>
<b>W98Q3214</b>	The number of patients on each of the categories of in-patient and day-to-day case waiting lists at Mid West hospitals	<b>Cllr S Morris</b>	<b>11-12</b>
<b>W98Q3215</b>	What bed availability was there at the 50 bed mental health unit in GUH over the last 12 months.	<b>Cllr D Killilea</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>W98Q3216</b>	What are the long term plans for the occupation of Toghermore House, Tuam	<b>Cllr D Killilea</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>W98Q3217</b>	How many patients under the age of 16 were admitted to UHG over the last 12 months that didn't go to paediatrics unit in both A&E and the inpatient paed unit.	<b>Cllr D Killilea</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>W98Q3218</b>	A list of dentists in County Clare, broken down by Municipal District, who provide services to people under the medical card scheme?	<b>Cllr C Murphy</b>	<b>14-15</b>
<b>W98Q3219</b>	The numbers and times of young people from Clare awaiting appointments with CAMHS by age cohort for the years 2019/2020/2021/2022	<b>Cllr C Murphy</b>	<b>15-16</b>
<b>W98Q3220</b>	Bus stop at the new Out Patients Department in Ennis.	<b>Cllr C Murphy</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>W98Q3221</b>	Resurfaced at the entrance road to Ballymote Community Nursing Home	<b>Cllr D Mulvey</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>W98Q3222</b>	Saolta Communications Dept's refusal Purple Light Up request at Portiuncula University Hospital for International Women's Day	<b>Cllr E Francis Parsons</b>	<b>16-17</b>
<b>W98Q3223</b>	Medical services for the expected arrival of Ukrainian Refugees.	<b>Cllr E Francis Parsons</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>W98Q3224</b>	Update on the setting up and operation of Menopause Specialist Clinic in Galway.	<b>Cllr E Francis Parsons</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>W98Q3225</b>	Update on Specialist Hub for Eating Disorders Galway	<b>Cllr E Francis Parsons</b>	<b>18-19</b>
<b>W98Q3226</b>	Home Support Services application form	<b>Cllr M Kilcoyne</b>	<b>19-20</b>
<b>W98Q3227</b>	West Doc clinics and their locations in Mayo	<b>Cllr M Kilcoyne</b>	<b>20-21</b>

<b>W98Q3228</b>	What is the up to date position in relation to the proposed new A & E unit and Mayo University Hospital	<b>ClIr M Kilcoyne</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>W98Q3229</b>	Mayo University Hospital positions:	<b>ClIr M Kilcoyne</b>	<b>21-22</b>
<b>W98Q3230</b>	Day Care Services restoration in Carndonagh	<b>ClIr A Doherty</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>W98Q3231</b>	A recent internal audit report (2020) found no justification had been provided for the expenditure of 1.1 million Euro with a non-framework agency by the HSEs mental health services in the west of Ireland	<b>ClIr A Doherty</b>	<b>22-23</b>
<b>W98Q3232</b>	How many people are on the waiting list in Sligo University Hospital for hip or knee replacements	<b>ClIr D Bree</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>W98Q3233</b>	The number of patients on each of the categories of inpatient and day-case waiting lists at Sligo University Hospital?	<b>ClIr D Bree</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>W98Q3234</b>	How many dentists in (1) Sligo, (2) Leitrim, provide services to people under the GMS medical card scheme?	<b>ClIr D Bree</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>W98Q3235</b>	Breakdown of the numbers of young people in Sligo who are currently awaiting appointments with CAMHS;	<b>ClIr D Bree</b>	<b>24-25</b>
<b>W98Q3236</b>	What is the update on the appointment of a radiographer to Donegal Town Community hospital?	<b>ClIr T Conaghan</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>W98Q3237</b>	What are the plans for the Covid Test Centre at the O Cleary Centre Donegal Town?	<b>ClIr T Conaghan</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>W98Q3238</b>	Are there any plans to provide a regular/ visiting Chronic Pain Clinic at the Primary Care Centre in Donegal Town?	<b>ClIr T Conaghan</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>W98Q3239</b>	Update on status of the ambulance station at University Hospital Galway and Merlin Park Hospital?	<b>ClIr J Connolly</b>	<b>25-26</b>
<b>W98Q3240</b>	When is the planning application likely to be lodged for the new permanent A&E at University Hospital Galway?	<b>ClIr J Connolly</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>W98Q3241</b>	What were the monthly occupancy levels at the Acute Mental Health Facility at University Hospital Galway in 2021?	<b>ClIr J Connolly</b>	<b>26-27</b>
<b>W98Q3242</b>	How much has the Saolta group paid for ambulance services provided by Private Ambulance Operators in 2019, 2020 and 2021?	<b>ClIr J Connolly</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>W98Q3243</b>	Has planning permission been granted for extra car park spaces at Roscommon County Hospital.	<b>ClIr T Ward</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>W98Q3244</b>	Update on the proposed 50 bedroom unit that is to be built at the Sacred Heart Hospital Roscommon?	<b>ClIr T Ward</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>W98Q3245</b>	The waiting time for dental treatment for primary school children in the south Roscommon area and the rest of County Roscommon	<b>ClIr T Ward</b>	<b>27-28</b>
<b>W98Q3246</b>	How many people are on a waiting list to have a medical procedures carried out from County Roscommon, and what are the waiting times for the different categories?	<b>ClIr T Ward</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>W98Q3247</b>	Empty buildings under HSE ownership that have been idle for 5 to 10 years or more in Leitrim	<b>ClIr F Gurn</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>W98Q3248</b>	What are the options in the north west for treatment for individuals who have drug issues to get over their addictions.	<b>ClIr F Gurn</b>	<b>29-33</b>
<b>W98Q3249</b>	Has the HSE seen an increase in people who are addicted to prescription drugs like opioids for pain use?	<b>ClIr F Gurn</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>W98Q3250</b>	Intellectual Disability & Respite provision in Inishowen.	<b>ClIr A Doherty</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>W98Q3251</b>	Can I get an update in relation to progress for a Primary Care Centre for Spiddal?	<b>ClIr D Ó Cualáin</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>W98Q3252</b>	The number of people currently awaiting admission to nursing homes in County Galway under the fair deal scheme	<b>ClIr D Ó Cualáin</b>	<b>34-35</b>

<b>W98Q3253</b>	Update and clarification in relation to the amalgamation of St Ann's CNU in Clifden and Clifden District Hospital	<b>Clr D Ó Cualáin</b>	<b>35-36</b>
<b>W98Q3254</b>	What is the current situation in relation to The Fire Service responding to Emergency Medical Calls and Life Threatening Medical Emergencies in Co Galway.	<b>Clr D Ó Cualáin</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>W98Q3255</b>	Update report on the new community hospital for Letterkenny and Ramelton community nursing unit?	<b>Clr C Brogan</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>W98Q3256</b>	Update report on the current services being provided for patients at the primary care centre in Letterkenny?	<b>Clr C Brogan</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>W98Q3257</b>	Update report on the number of public health nurses, community health nurses in Donegal in each area covering the county?	<b>Clr C Brogan</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>W98Q3258</b>	Can we have the hospital budget for 2019, 2020, 2021, the number of (wte) currently employed at LUH	<b>Clr C Brogan</b>	<b>37-38</b>
<b>W98Q3259</b>	The current waiting times and numbers of Children currently awaiting Assessments for Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language Therapy and Psychology Services in Donegal?	<b>Clr G McMonagle</b>	<b>38-39</b>
<b>W98Q3260</b>	What steps are being taken by Management at LUH and the NAS to address the current issues at the Emergency Department in relation multiple ambulances being constantly delayed at LUH?	<b>Clr G McMonagle</b>	<b>39-40</b>

# QUESTIONS & RESPONSES DOCUMENT

## REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM WEST – 22<sup>nd</sup> MARCH 2022

Number:	QUESTION	RAISED BY
<b>W98Q3206</b>	Could the HSE confirm the number of full time permanent public health nurses and community nurses covering Galway City and County at present (by area). What is number if any of agency and contract nurses and what are the patient numbers in both the City and the County (for each area).	<b>Clr D Killilea</b>

### Disability Services:

Children's Disability Services were reconfigured during late 2021/early 2022 and moved to the new Progressing Disability Services (PDS) for children and young people model. It is being rolled out nationally by the HSE in partnership with its funded voluntary organisations. Currently, there are 6.7 WTE Nursing staff employed directly by Community Healthcare West in the Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs) across the region which includes 2.5 Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) Nurses with a caseload of 67 children covering 3 Children networks in Galway City and County

- CDNT 4: 1 Community Nurse CNN2 (RNID) 18.5hrs/week
- CDNT 7: 0.5WTE for Nursing roles
- CDNT 8: 1 WTE Community Nurse

Please note there are Nursing staff also working in Disability Services across the Community Healthcare West region employed by our Section 38 and Section 39 Agency partners including the Agency led Children's Disability Network Teams 5 and 6.

### Primary Care Services:

Galway PHN service has 85 PHN areas including 4 off shore islands with a skills mix of PHNs and RGNs across Galway City and County.

Currently there are 10 agency nurses working in PHN areas plus 6 TCP Homecare nurses working in wound care clinics across Galway City and County.

- PHN clinical caseload cohort of 9,140
- Preschool children 0-5yrs cohort of 16,347
- Primary School cohort of 3,549
- Secondary School Cohort of 3,855

### Mental Health Services:

#### Gr1- GR5

The number of Community Mental Health Nurses covering Galway City & County at present (by area):	What is number if any of agency and contract nurses:	What are the patient numbers in both the City and the County (for each area):
<b>GR1/ POLL 1 – (10)</b> 10 CMHN	No Agency Staff	Approximately 600 active patients for the sector team.
<b>GR2- Community (14)</b> 13 + 1 addiction Nurse counsellor.	No Agency or contract nurses at present	Approximately 1200 active patients for the sector



		team.
<b>GR4 (4)</b> 4 CMHN 4 CMHN (Rehab and Recovery)	No agency or contract workers on the staff	Approximately 1200 active patients for the sector team.
<b>GR3 – (5)</b> 5 Community Mental Health Nurses	No Agency or contract nurses at present	Approximately 1200 active patients for the sector team.
<b>GR5 (8)</b> 5 CNS 2 Addictions councillors CNS 1 CNS CBT *4 CMHN in Poll (which covers Tuam, Ballinasloe and Roscommon)	No Agency Community Mental Health Nurse	Approximately 1200 active patients for the sector team.
<p>*covers a wider geographical area to GR5 community. Case load figures relate to GR5 Community General Adult Team caseloads.</p> <p><b>GR1 - Connemara – City West</b>  <b>GR2 – Galway City</b>  <b>GR3 - Headford – Galway City East –Gort</b>  <b>GR4 – Tuam – Loughrea</b>  <b>GR5 – Ballinasloe – Portunma</b>  <b>POLL1 – Psychiatry of Later Life – West Galway</b></p> <p><b>Breda Crehan-Roche, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare West</b></p>		
<b>W98Q3207</b>	What actions or plans are being undertaken to A support Ukraine at a National level B provide for any increase in our population and therefore demand on Health services in HSE West, which is already struggling with overcrowding	<b>Cllr M O Connor</b>
<p>It is estimated that between 80,000 to 100,000 Ukrainians will arrive in Ireland as a result of the war in Ukraine. Therefore, a whole-of-Government approach is underway to support Ukrainians arriving into Ireland. As EU citizens, they will be granted temporary protection in Ireland and will be able to access a range of state supports including a medical card to facilitate access to health services.</p> <p>The HSE has established an oversight group to oversee all of the work of the HSE in relation to the war in Ukraine, including our efforts to send much needed equipment and medicines. Within Integrated Operations, a National Planning and Coordination Group has been established to ensure a robust and integrated response across community and acute services.</p> <p>There are two components to the HSE planning approach currently underway; the immediate actions required to address health and social care needs of people currently arriving; and the preparations for a more significant volume of people arriving into Ireland from Ukraine in the coming weeks.</p> <p>The Coordination Group is also working to optimise communication channels with International Protection Accommodation Services/Department of Children and the Department of Justice regarding the demographics and locations of Ukrainians entering the country. This will ensure that CHOs, Hospital Groups, Public Health Departments and those responding on the front line have the information they need to deliver services proactively.</p> <p>Local Area Crisis Management Teams have been activated in CHO2 and CHO1 areas with key relevant staff from</p>		

community and acute hospitals represented to support integrated planning and preparedness at local level for what is likely to be significant numbers of people arriving in the coming weeks.		
The HSE has also updated <a href="http://www.hse.ie/Ukraine">www.hse.ie/Ukraine</a> with information available there in Ukrainian and Russian on accessing health services.		
<b>T. Canavan, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group</b>		
<b>W98Q3208</b>	Are you still using private services in Galway to provide/maximise oncology treatment in order to keep up with demand?	<b>Cllr M O Connor</b>
We are not using private hospital care to any extent to support oncology treatment services. However, we are engaging an external service, TCP funded by the NCCP which is supporting existing services in UHG and Merlin Park. This has been working very well. The current contract is to run until July, 2022		
<b>A. Cosgrove, COO, Saolta University Health Care Group</b>		
<b>W98Q3209</b>	When will HSE return the temporary helicopter landing site at Shantalla Community Park to Galway City Council for use and development as part of the Pollinator Plan along with the rest of the park.	<b>Cllr M O Connor</b>
The options in respect of helipad facilities adjacent to University Hospital Galway both in the immediate future and in the longer term are currently under review. The HSE intends to engage with Galway City Council in the coming months and put forward proposals for consideration. An update can be provided in due course.		
<b>Joe Hoare, Assistant National Director, Capital &amp; Estates West</b>		
<b>W98Q3210</b>	What recent progress has been made on development of the Primary Care building proposed for Seamus Quirke Road.	<b>Cllr M O Connor</b>
The HSE is currently engaging with the successful bidder in respect of their proposal for a significant primary care centre facility for Galway City West. The HSE has been reviewing its overall accommodation requirements which have increased. The current proposed transaction was approved by the HSE Board at the board meeting on 28 <sup>th</sup> January 2022 last. Further engagement between the HSE and the developer in respect of the scheme design is planned over the coming months. It is the intention of both parties that a planning permission would be lodged around the end of Quarter 2 2022.		
<b>Joe Hoare, Assistant National Director, Capital &amp; Estates West</b>		
<b>W98Q3211</b>	What supports are available to assist voluntary and community groups in the area of mental health in the Mid West region	<b>Cllr S Morris</b>
The Mental Health Service provides financial supports to community groups via Section 39, Grant Aid Service Level Agreements and National Lottery Grant Funding. All applications for funding are reviewed by the Mental Health Service. Each application outlines details of monies required and the service in which the community group intend to provide. Allocation of monies is agreed by the service and the Community Groups are notified. The service is currently accepting applications for National Lottery funding for 2022 and invites community groups and voluntary organisations to apply for once off funding for suitable projects. Closing Date for National Lottery Grant Applications is Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2022.		
During the COVID pandemic the Mental Health Service provided supports to our community groups and organisations in the following ways:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infection Prevention Guidance and Support</li> <li>• Provision of PPE</li> <li>• Supported with the Vaccination Roll Out for Staff and Service Users</li> </ul>		
<b>Maria Bridgeman, Chief Officer, CHO3</b>		

<b>W98Q3212</b>	Can I have a breakdown of the numbers of young people in the Midwest region (Tipperary Clare and Limerick) who are currently awaiting appointments with CAMHS, the length of time they have been waiting, what steps have been taken to address these waiting lists, and what safeguards are in place to ensure they receiving adequate and safe care?	<b>Cllr S Morris</b>
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### Referrals to CAMHS

In accordance with the HSE CAMHS Operational Guideline (2019) CAMHS offers assessment and treatment to children and young people with moderate to severe mental health difficulties up to their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. Most of our referrals come either directly from the family G.P. but referrals are also accepted from senior clinicians/practitioners in other disciplines/services in collaboration with the G.P.as per the CAMHS Operational Guideline (as above).

In general, all referrals of children and young people to CAMHS are reviewed by the relevant catchment team to determine if the referral is appropriate to CAMHS. The criteria applied are as outlined in the CAMHS Operational Guideline (as above). If a referral meets the criteria the team will prioritise the referral according to the acuity of the presentation outlined in the referral and any other collateral information provided.

Referrals are prioritised according to acuity of the presenting difficulties which encompasses the severity of the presenting difficulties, the associated mental health risks and the risk of harm. While a child may be wait listed and assigned a level of priority based on the above, subsequent referrals received, or children and young people already on the waiting list, may be deemed more urgent and so will usually be offered an appointment sooner than others on the basis of this prioritisation.

### Waiting List

Waiting lists are reviewed regularly and validated by each team so as to ensure that those waiting longer are kept under consideration when allocating cases. A service wide Waiting List validation exercise was carried out in November 2021.

If there is a significant deterioration in the mental state of the young person waiting that result in an acute mental health presentation, an urgent appointment maybe sought through the GP. This service is available from Monday to Friday from 9.30am to 5.00pm.

An application under the HSE Waiting List Initiative was submitted through the Head of Service, Mental Health Service, Mid-West Community Healthcare in December 2021 to secure additional targeted resources to address the existing CAMHS waiting list. We await an outcome from HSE Nationally

The service continues to monitor.

### Waiting List CAMHS Mid – West by Team as of 31/01/22

	Clare West	Clare East	Limerick East	North Tipperary	Limerick West	Limerick Central
<b>0 to 3months</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>3 to 6 months</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>6 to 9 months</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>9 to 12 months</b>	<b>5</b>		<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>12 to 15 months</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>21</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>15 to 18 months</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	

18 to 21 months	2			1	7	
21 to 24 months	6			4	9	
24 to 27 months	1				8	
27 to 30 months					4	
30 to 33 months					1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>TOTAL WAITING OVER 12 MONTHS = 94</b> <b>Overall CHO 3 CAMHS Waiting List = 376</b>						

**Maria Bridgeman, Chief Officer, CHO3**

<b>W98Q3213</b>	What services are in place in Tipperary to deal with drug and addiction issues and mental health issues and if those services are 24 hours 7 days a week services?	<b>Cllr S Morris</b>
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#### **CHO3 HSE Mid-West Drug and Alcohol Services – North Tipperary**

The following details the range of services provided and funded in North Tipperary in relation to Drugs and Alcohol Services.

- These services are delivered by i) the HSE Mid-West North Tipperary Team and ii) and via a number of Section 39 (i.e. community / voluntary services) funded by the HSE and the Mid-West Regional Drug and Alcohol Service.
- The services are in the main community day programmes and operate on a Monday to Friday 9.00 to 5.00 basis.
- Residential treatment services which clients from North Tipperary can and do access; operate on what is essentially a 24/7 basis; but this is in relation to the provision of in-patient treatment and are not crisis / out of hours services.
- Please note that unless otherwise stated, the services here work in outreach basis in North Tipperary. Services are currently moving back to full face to face engagement post covid-19; however, based on service user feedback over the last two years all services will continue to offer an element of remote consultations (phone or video) for all clients; where i) this is the preferred client option and ii) it promotes ease of access and better engagement

<b>Helplines / Service Directories</b>		
1.	<p>HES National Drug &amp; Alcohol Helpline: 1800 459 459</p> <p>Email support service: <a href="mailto:helpline@hse.ie">helpline@hse.ie</a></p>	<p>This confidential service has both a free phone Helpline (1800 459 459) and an email support service (<a href="mailto:helpline@hse.ie">helpline@hse.ie</a>).</p> <p>The HSE Drugs &amp; Alcohol Helpline provides support, information, guidance and referral to anyone with a question or concern related to drug and alcohol use and/or HIV and sexual health. The service is non-judgemental and offers space to talk about your situation, to explore some options and to consider your needs. During calls/ emails, staff refer to a database of over 400 services nationwide.</p>

		Opening hours are Monday to Friday, 9.30am and 5.30pm.	
2.	HSE National Directory of Drugs and Alcohol Services <a href="http://www.services.drugs.ie/">http://www.services.drugs.ie/</a>	Searchable database of 400+ services available in Ireland	
3.	HSE Drugs.ie Drug & Alcohol Support Site <a href="https://www.drugs.ie/">https://www.drugs.ie/</a>	Available in English, Irish and a number of other languages; this site is a key resource in relation to information, news and research in relation to addiction and drug use in an Irish context	
<b>Young People / Family Services</b>			
4.	Community Substance Misuse Team <a href="http://www.csmt.ie/">http://www.csmt.ie/</a> 061 318904	Early Intervention Service for young people & their families; works with clients from throughout Nr Tipperary	
5.	HSE Mid-West Drug & Alcohol Service, Nr Tipp Team  067 46512	Services & Support for Young People aged 14yrs to 25yrs affected by alcohol and/or drug use – counselling service. Clients can be seen in the services Nenagh base or on an outreach basis in primary care centres throughout Nr Tipperary	
6.	Bushy Park Treatment Centre, Ennis  065 6840944	Family Support Groups facilitated by an addiction counsellor – with remote access an option	
7.	HSE Mid-West Drug & Alcohol Service, Nr Tipp Team  067 46512	Support & information for concerned parents and others. Clients can be seen in the services Nenagh base or on an outreach basis in primary care centres throughout Nr Tipperary	
8.	Novas Respite House, Newport, Tipperary  061 624878 / 083 3983806	Supporting individuals & families affected by the substance misuse of a loved one in a peaceful rural setting.	
9.	12-Step Peer Family Support Al Anon, Nar Anon 12-step Programmes	Meeting Details available via: <a href="http://www.al-anon-ireland.org">www.al-anon-ireland.org</a> <a href="http://www.nar-anon.org">www.nar-anon.org</a>	
10.	Drug Related Intimidation Reporting Programme	A national initiative between the Garda and the Family Support Network to address drug related intimidation  Ask for the Inspector nominated to this Programme in the following stations:  Limerick: 061 212 400 (Henry St.) Clare: 065 6848100 (Ennis) Nth Tipp: 050 425100 (Thurles)	

	<b>Residential Treatment Centres</b>	
11.	<p>Clients from North Tipperary can access funded residential treatment via the adult addiction services and the National Tier 4 Beds Fund. Residential accessed for Nr Tipp clients tend to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aiseiri, Cahir</li> <li>• Aislinn (young people), Ballyraggit</li> <li>• Cuan Mhuire, Bruree</li> <li>• Bushypark, Ennis</li> </ul>	
	<b>Adult Treatment Services</b>	
12.	CARMHA	This is a charity, based in Nenagh that provide counselling and peer support to people that have addiction and mental health problems over the age of 18 years of age. They provide a free service, clients can self-refer to the service, and they accept referrals from any county. Opening hours are Monday to Friday 10 am to 4pm. Contact details 087 7722671
13.	HSE Mid-West Drug & Alcohol Service, Nr Tipperary	Counselling, outreach support, needle exchange, case management and key working and education and prevention. Service is based in Kenyon Street, Nenagh and works on an outreach basis throughout Nr Tipp
14.	HSE Mid-West Drug & Alcohol Service, Opiate Substitution Treatment Clinic, Nr Tipperary	The service is a satellite clinic of the main Limerick Service; operates once a week in the Nenagh office and is supported by 13 pharmacies in Nr Tipperary dispensing methadone and 3 Level 1 (ie community based) GPs in North Tipperary
15.	Ana Liffey Drug Project Midwest  1800 786828 / 085 1559158	Low threshold outreach service for adults in the Midwest
16.	Coolmine Therapeutic Community 086 083 2550	Primarily a female focused service, with separate support for males looking to enter Coolmine Lodge
17.	Novas Community Detox  061 370325 / 083 1232378	Safer outpatient detox from benzo's & methadone
18.	Saoirse  085 8184590	Non-Residential Drug & Alcohol Addiction Counselling; including targeted work re: alcohol use in Nr Tipp
19.	<p>Peer Support:</p> <p>Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) Cocaine Anonymous (CA) Narcotics Anonymous (NA)</p>	<p>Meeting Details available via:</p> <p><a href="http://www.alcoholicsanonymous.ie">www.alcoholicsanonymous.ie</a>  <a href="http://www.caireland.info">www.caireland.info</a>  <a href="http://www.na-ireland.org">www.na-ireland.org</a></p>
	<b>Mid West Regional Drug and Alcohol Forum</b>	
20.	The MWRDAF is a partnership body with a mandate from the National Drug Strategy, with reps from the community, voluntary and statutory sectors (including representation from	

	the Nr Tipp community sector). The Forum is charged with a co-ordinating and developmental role in relation to services in the Mid-West. Elected Reps / Councillors have sits on the Forum, but currently we do not have an representation attending the Forum from this group.	
	<b>New Developments 2022</b>	
21.	<p>2022 will see a number of new developments come on stream; these will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The opening of a dedicated mother and child residential treatment service via Coolmine Mid-West based in CHO3; which clients will have access to</li> <li>• The roll-out of a new Integrated Alcohol Service (in partnership with Health and Wellbeing) which will operate in CHO3; with satellite clinics running in Nr Tipp</li> <li>• Lead out by CHO3 Mental Health Services, the establishment of a Dual Diagnosis Team, covering all of CHO3</li> </ul>	
<p>Adult Mental Health Services in North Tipperary are accessed through two Mental Health Teams. These teams are based in Dromin Road, Nenagh, Co Tipperary and St Mary's Health Centre, Thurles, Co Tipperary.</p> <p>The HSE Mid-West, Drug &amp; Alcohol service and Mental Health Services work together as required to meet the needs of the population</p> <p><b>Maria Bridgeman, Chief Officer, CHO3</b></p>		
<b>W98Q3214</b>	Can the forum be provided with the number of patients on each of the categories of in-patient and day-to-day case waiting lists at Mid West hospitals	<b>Cllr S Morris</b>
<p>The Covid-19 pandemic resulted in significant disruption to health services across the country. Scheduled care across our hospitals has been particularly impacted. The reduction in scheduled care was in line with national policy on the pandemic response.</p> <p>Following the most recent surge of COVID-19 infection, scheduled hospital services, including surgery, endoscopy and outpatient appointments, have been re-introduced across the sites of UL Hospitals Group as the rate of community transmission of COVID-19 continues to decline.</p> <p>The 2022 Waiting List Action Plan and HSE National Service Plan 2022 were both published by the Department of Health recently, both of these documents set out new targets on waiting lists, with a focus on the longest waiters.</p> <p>The pandemic has contributed to growing waiting lists for surgical patients as scheduled care was reduced as part of the emergency response. While challenges remain around infection control and in relation to recruitment, plans are now being put in place to reduce waiting lists.</p> <p>In addition, there are a number of scheduled care initiatives operating across UL Hospitals Group to address waiting lists. These come under the National Treatment Purchase Fund (NTPF), Hospital Safety Net Service Agreement and the Advanced Clinical Prioritisation Programme. Under the Private Hospital Safety Net Service Agreement, UL Hospitals Group has referred urgent surgical and medical cases to private hospitals. As well as these initiatives, virtual clinics are being used across our services as a means of identifying patients who can be progressed to in-person treatment, whether for diagnostic imaging, minor procedures, or full episodes of care.</p> <p>The HSE has established a Scheduled Care Transformation Programme to ensure a sustained, system-wide transformation process that tackles the challenge of scheduled care waiting times, improves access to scheduled care services, and ensures the safe delivery of care in the context of the on-going pandemic. Despite the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, during 2021, 38,536 inpatient and day case procedures took place at University Hospital Limerick.</p>		

Please see below data in relation to the number of patients on in-patient and day case waiting lists at UL Hospitals Group.

Specialty	Adult Daycase
Cardiology	62
Dental Surgery	2
Dermatology	77
Gastro-Enterology	10
General Medicine	8
General Surgery	352
Gynaecology	212
Maxillo-Facial	283
Ophthalmology	799
Orthopaedics	209
Otolaryngology (ENT)	105
Pain Relief	709
Plastic Surgery	4
Respiratory Medicine	74
Urology	342
Vascular Surgery	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>3274</b>

Specialty	Adult Inpatient
Cardiology	40
Gastro-Enterology	0
General Medicine	7
General Surgery	399
Gynaecology	109
Maxillo-Facial	31
Ophthalmology	2
Orthopaedics	278
Otolaryngology (ENT)	81
Pain Relief	3
Respiratory Medicine	158
Rheumatology	0
Urology	270
Vascular Surgery	42
<b>Total</b>	<b>1420</b>

Specialty	GI Scope
Gastro-Enterology	1254
General Medicine	4
General Surgery	2180
Respiratory Medicine	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>3439</b>

**C. Cowan, CEO, UL Hospitals Group**



<b>W98Q3215</b>	Could I ask the HSE to confirm what bed availability was there at the 50 bed mental health unit in GUH over the last 12 months. What is the average length of stay of a patient and where do the referrals come from. (ie ED, community, GP etc). How many patients have gone through the unit.	<b>CLlr D Killilea</b>
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**Average Bed Availability:**

Acute Adult Mental Health Unit Bed Availability (average) per month for last 12 months

<b>2021</b>	<b>Beds Available</b>
March	6
April	4
May	1
June	1
July	4
August	3
September	8
October	2
November	16
December	4
<b>2022</b>	
January	0
February	0

**Average Length of Stay (Av LOS) over a 1 year period ranges from 22- 31 days per patient, please see breakdown below by month**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Average LOS in Days</b>
<b>2021</b>	
March	22.0
April	28.2
May	27.3
June	29.7
July	24.7
August	26.5
September	20.7
October	27.3
November	26.5
December	31.0
<b>2022</b>	
January	30.3
February	28.5

Referrals to the Adult Mental Health Unit come from the following sources: Emergency Department, GP's, Garda, Assisted Admissions, Saolta Outpatient Department, Outpatient Clinics, Day Centre/Day Hospital and Community Mental Health Nurses.

From January to December 2021 - 609 patients admitted to the Acute Adult Mental Health Unit.

In January and February 2022, (combined) - 99 patients were admitted to the Acute Adult Mental Health Unit.

**Breda Crehan-Roche, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare West**

<b>W98Q3216</b>	Could I ask the HSE to confirm what are the long term plans for the occupation of Toghermore House, Tuam, what is there now, and what was the cost to get it ready as a covid centre.	<b>CLlr D Killilea</b>								
<p>Toghermore House is currently the base for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Under Mental Health- the Day Hospital, Day Centre in Tuam, Outpatient clinics and Training Centre are ran from this facility</li><li>• Under Disability: the Children’s Network team</li><li>• Central Support Functions for CHO West: HR., Quality &amp; Risk, Project Management and Older People services</li><li>• It cost €75,728 to prepare this facility as a Mental health Isolation centre for COVID patients</li><li>• There is a working group within CHO West reviewing the Long Term Plans for Toghermore House</li></ul> <p><b>Breda Crehan-Roche, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare West</b></p>										
<b>W98Q3217</b>	Could I ask the HSE to confirm how many patients under the age of 16 were admitted to UHG over the last 12 months that didn’t go to paediatrics unit in both A&E and the inpatient paed unit.	<b>CLlr D Killilea</b>								
<p>In cases where 14 to 16 year olds are not admitted to the Paediatric Unit, they are admitted to a single room with parental presence as appropriate</p> <p>The data below has been sourced from the Reporting Period of <b>1<sup>st</sup> March 2021 to 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022</b> based on Admission date.</p> <table><tr><td><b>PATIENT TYPE</b></td><td><b>Count of Patients</b></td></tr><tr><td>INPATIENT</td><td>129</td></tr><tr><td>DAY CASE</td><td>145</td></tr><tr><td><b>Total</b></td><td><b>274</b></td></tr></table>			<b>PATIENT TYPE</b>	<b>Count of Patients</b>	INPATIENT	129	DAY CASE	145	<b>Total</b>	<b>274</b>
<b>PATIENT TYPE</b>	<b>Count of Patients</b>									
INPATIENT	129									
DAY CASE	145									
<b>Total</b>	<b>274</b>									
<p><b>A. Cosgrove, COO, Saolta University Health Care Group</b></p>										
<b>W98Q3218</b>	Can I be provided with the list of dentists in County Clare, broken down by Municipal District, who provide services to people under the medical card scheme?	<b>CLlr C Murphy</b>								
<p>Private dental practitioners contracted under the Dental Treatment Services Scheme (DTSS) provide dental services to medical card holders (adults over 16 years of age). Under the scheme, a medical card holder is entitled to a limited range of dental treatment in a calendar year i.e. one dental examination, two fillings and as many extractions as necessary. There are additional dental treatments available but they require the approval of the Principal Dental Surgeon in the Community Healthcare Organisation (CHO) area prior to the commencement of such treatment (e.g. dentures).</p> <p>A full list of DTSS contracted dental practitioners for the Mid-West area can be requested from the DTSS Office, Unit 3, St. Camillus’ Hospital, Shelbourne Road, Limerick. Tel: 061 483738. I am attaching the list of DTSS dental practitioners who are based in Co. Clare. There are DTSS contracted dental practitioners based in Shannon, Ennis, Sixmilebridge, Scariff, Killaloe/Ballina and Kilrush.</p> <p>Please note that the name of a DTSS contracted dental practitioner can only be removed from the list of contracted dental practitioners if they advise the DTSS Office in the CHO area in writing that they no longer wish to participate in the scheme or if they are leaving the CHO area. Therefore, there may be contact details on the attached list for dental practitioners who no longer participate in the scheme.</p> <p>A medical card holder is not confined to attending a practice in their local area and many patients travel from Co. Clare to a dental surgeon/practice in Limerick to receive treatment under the scheme. A medical card holder can attend any DTSS contracted dental surgeon/practice anywhere in the country if they are in a position to take</p>										

them on as a patient.

The Primary Care Reimbursement Service (PCRS) processes the claims submitted by DTSS contracted dentists/dental practices for dental services provided to medical card holders. In February 2022, the PCRS processed claims submitted by 12 dental surgeons from Co. Clare (out of a total of 17 contracted dental practitioners) for dental services provided under the scheme.

#### DTSS Dental Practitioners based in Co. Clare

CLARE		
BOWE, ROBERT	STEELES TCE., ENNIS, CO. CLARE.	065 6821547
BROWNE, GERARD	DENTAL CENTRE, WOODQUAY, ENNIS, CO. CLARE.	065 6828227
BUCKLEY, MIRIAM	4 MOORE STREET, KILRUSH, CO. CLARE	065 9052888
COTREAVE, A.E.	16 MERCHANT'S SQUARE, ENNIS, CO. CLARE.	065 6821612
COUNIHAN, COLEMAN	4 BANK PLACE, ENNIS, CO. CLARE.	065 6840855
EVANS, EMILE	UNIT 101, MERCHANTS QUAY, FRANCES ST., KILRUSH, CO. CLARE.	065 9052888
GRONCZYNSKA SABRINA	ROSLEVAN DENT CLINIC, ROSLEVAN SHOPPING CTR, ENNIS.	065 6828486
HILLERY, BARRY	2 SALTHOUSE LANE, ENNIS, CO. CLARE.	065 6822622
JONES, LIAM	TOLER ST., KILRUSH, CO. CLARE.	065 9080080
JOY, HELENA	DENTAL CARE IRELAND, ROSLEVAN S. C., ENNIS, CO. CLARE	065 6828486
KENNEDY, KEVIN A.	DENTAL EXCELLENCE, 17 FERGUS RD., SHANNON, CO. CLARE.	061 471164
LYONS, MARIA	SCARRIFF MEDICAL CENTRE, MARKET SQ., SCARRIFF.	061 921123
NI MHURCHU, CLIODHNA	MOORE STREET, KILRUSH, CO. CLARE.	065 9052888
MAHONY, DERMOTT F.	STEELES TCE., ENNIS, CO. CLARE.	065 6821547
McCARTHY, NIALL	MOORE ST., KILRUSH, CO. CLARE.	065 9052888
McGRATH, EIMEAR	UNIT 8, GARNNA HOUSE, SIXMILEBRIDGE, CO. CLARE.	061 713685
McNICHOLL, BARRY	16 MERCHANTS SQ., ENNIS, CO. CLARE.	065 6821612
MULVEY, IAN	STEELES TCE., ENNIS, CO. CLARE.	065 6821547
O'BRIEN, JACQUELINE	WOODQUAY, PARNELL ST., ENNIS, CO. CLARE.	065 6828227
O'MEARA, JUDITH	DENTAL SURGERY, CONNAUGHT RD, SCARRIFF, CO. CLARE.	061 640926
O'NEILL, AOIFE	ENNIS DENTAL H.C., WOODQUAY HSE., PARNELL ST., ENNIS	065 6828227
O'DOWD, BRENDA	RYAGAN HOUSE, SHANTRAUD, KILLALOE, CO. CLARE.	061 374744
O'REGAN, OONA	DENTAL CARE IRELAND, ROSLEVAN S. C., ENNIS, CO. CLARE.	065 6828486
RYAN, MICHAEL	DENTAL EXCELLENCE, 17 FERGUS RD., SHANNON, CO. CLARE.	061 471164
ROGINA, VEINA	DENTAL EXCELLENCE, 17 FERGUS RD., SHANNON, CO. CLARE.	061 471164
STAMATE, ROBIN	DENTAL EXCELLENCE, 17 FERGUS RD., SHANNON, CO. CLARE.	061 471164
STAMATE, ANCA	DENTAL EXCELLENCE, 17 FERGUS RD., SHANNON, CO. CLARE.	061 471164

#### Maria Bridgeman, Chief Officer, CHO3

<b>W98Q3219</b>	Can I be provided with a breakdown by age cohort of the numbers and times of young people from Clare awaiting appointments with CAMHS for the years 2019/2020/2021/2022	<b>Cllr C Murphy</b>
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The breakdown of waiting lists of young people from **Clare** awaiting appointments.

(N.B this information is not currently collected by age cohort). The reporting years include waiting lists as of 31/12/19, 31/12/20 and 31/12/21 (annual figures not available for 2022).

	31/12/19	31/12/20	31/12/21
<b>0 to 3 months</b>	43	31	33
<b>3 to 6 months</b>	14	10	19
<b>6 to 9 months</b>	3	7	14

9 to 12 months	1	8	6
12 to 15 months		14	0
15 to 18 months		4	2
18 to 21 months			5
21 to 24 months			3
24 to 27 months			
27 to 30 months			
30 to 33 months			
<b>Total on Waiting List</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>82</b>

**Maria Bridgeman, Chief Officer, CHO3**

<b>W98Q3220</b>	Can the HSE liaise with Clare County Council, Bus Eireann and TII to provide a request bus stop at the new Out Patients Department in Ennis.	<b>Cllr C Murphy</b>
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The HSE would be fully supportive of any initiative to provide a bus stop and shelter in the vicinity of the Outpatients Department in Ennis. However, it should be noted that the HSE is not responsible for the provision of public transport and amenities associated with same.

Issues relating to public transport should be raised directly with public transport providers in County Clare.

UL Hospitals Group would be delighted to engage with all relevant stakeholders on the introduction of additional facilities that would improve the patient experience across all of our hospital sites, including at the Outpatients Department in Ennis.

Any discussions regarding a possible bus shelter and safe pedestrian crossing would also need engagement and agreement with the landlord of the Outpatients Department in Ennis as it is under a leasehold agreement.

**C. Cowan, CEO, UL Hospitals Group**

<b>W98Q3221</b>	Can the HSE give an update on my previous request to have the short section of ground approx. 40 meters resurfaced on the entrance road to Ballymote Community Nursing Home which recently underwent upgrade construction works and the section of road in question is registered in the ownership of the HSE. The local SVDP committee have carried out enchantment works on the lands they own at the entrance from the main road but this short section which is mainly used by HSE Staff, daily delivery drivers and visitors to the nursing unit is the only section of ground and would complete this .	<b>Cllr D Mulvey</b>
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This roadway runs through a number of private land ownerships before it reaches the public road. This includes land attached to the HSE's CNU. It services a number of developments on the lands concerned, including residential type buildings and the HSE's CNU. My understanding is that the road has never been taken in charge.

I have been advised that the roadway was inspected by the HSE on 4/03/22. The roadway is for the most part in excellent repair; this includes the section across HSE ground. There is a short section of approx 30 metres that is not finished to the same very high standard as the rest. I am informed that the section concerned is not under HSE ownership or control and, therefore, I am unable to advise on this matter.

**Dermot Monaghan, A/Chief Officer, CHO1**

<b>W98Q3222</b>	Please provide clarity on the reasoning behind Saolta Communications Dept's refusal of the local Purple Light Up request at Portiuncula University Hospital to mark International Women's Day 8 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Cllr E Francis Parsons</b>
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Saolta supported International Women's Day in a number of ways this year including producing a video montage of nursing staff from across all of our seven sites which saw very positive engagement.

We also supported and highlighted a number of initiatives and messages of thanks on all our social media

<p>platforms including messages from HSE Ireland, EHealth Ireland and CHWest along with promoting the Department of Health Action Plan on Women's Health.</p> <p>On sites, the day was marked in a variety of ways including initiatives to thank and recognise the day in our staff canteens and with free draws.</p> <p>Lighting Up was not one of the ways we chose to celebrate IWD this year.</p> <p><b>T. Canavan, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group</b></p>		
<b>W98Q3223</b>	<p>Please indicate what preparations are HSE West making to receive, treat and provide medical services for the expected arrival of Ukrainian Refugees. Figures of between 20,000- 150,000 Ukrainian people have been mentioned nationally- mainly women and children.</p> <p>What numbers are HSE West preparing for and which services are likely to be in most demand. What additional resources are being made available?</p>	<b>Cllr E Francis Parsons</b>
<p>It is estimated that between 80,000 to 100,000 Ukrainians will arrive in Ireland as a result of the war in Ukraine. Therefore, a whole-of-Government approach is underway to support Ukrainians arriving into Ireland. As EU citizens, they will be granted temporary protection in Ireland and will be able to access a range of state supports including a medical card to facilitate access to health services.</p> <p>The HSE has established an oversight group to oversee all of the work of the HSE in relation to the war in Ukraine, including our efforts to send much needed equipment and medicines. Within Integrated Operations, a National Planning and Coordination Group has been established to ensure a robust and integrated response across community and acute services.</p> <p>There are two components to the HSE planning approach currently underway; the immediate actions required to address health and social care needs of people currently arriving; and the preparations for a more significant volume of people arriving into Ireland from Ukraine in the coming weeks.</p> <p>The Coordination Group is also working to optimise communication channels with International Protection Accommodation Services/Department of Children and the Department of Justice regarding the demographics and locations of Ukrainians entering the country. This will ensure that CHOs, Hospital Groups, Public Health Departments and those responding on the front line have the information they need to deliver services proactively.</p> <p>Local Area Crisis Management Teams have been activated in CHO2 and CHO1 areas with key relevant staff from community and acute hospitals represented to support integrated planning and preparedness at local level for what is likely to be significant numbers of people arriving in the coming weeks.</p> <p>The HSE has also updated <a href="http://www.hse.ie/Ukraine">www.hse.ie/Ukraine</a> with information available there in Ukrainian and Russian on accessing health services.</p> <p><b>T. Canavan, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group</b></p>		
<b>W98Q3224</b>	<p>Please provide update on the setting up and operation of Menopause Specialist Clinic in Galway. Is it fully staffed and fully operational?</p>	<b>Cllr E Francis Parsons</b>
<p>Work is ongoing in regards to setting up the Menopause Specialist Clinic in University Hospital Galway. We are progressing with the recruitment campaign and recruitment for the required specialist staff remains ongoing. This will be a significant development and is included in the National Service Plan 2022.</p> <p><b>A. Cosgrove, COO, Saolta University Health Care Group</b></p>		

<b>W98Q3225</b>	Please provide update on Specialist Hub for Eating Disorders Galway Please provide details on the Adolescent and Adult services in terms of staffing and numbers of in-patient beds, waiting lists, numbers of patients attending, inpatient/ day patients/ outpatients, has the staffing complement been filled? Please provide clarity on how tube feeding/ enteral feeding is managed in the adolescent age group from a clinical aspect and from the aspect of the Mental Health Act?	<b>Cllr E Francis Parsons</b>
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There is no Adult Specialist Eating Disorders Hub at present and there has been no sanction to date for a specific Adult Specialist Eating Disorder Team. Services to clients with Eating Disorders are provided via Community Outpatient Clinics and the Adult Acute Mental Health Unit. We have however received approval through 2022 Service Development funding to recruit an additional four Senior Dietician's to bolster our Community Mental Health Team's and we are continuing to advocate for a full Adult Eating Disorder Team for the Area at National Level.

In relation to the CAMHS Eating Disorder (ED) Specialist Team the following is the up to date position:  
Staffing as of 28.02.2022

Location	Grade/Grade Code	WTE	Status of Recruitment
<b>CHO2</b>	Consultant, Child Psychiatrist	1	With Public Appointment Service/awaiting advertising
	Registrar	1	Post filled July 2021
	Psychologist, Senior Clinical	1	Post filled Dec 2021
	Social Worker, Senior Medical	1	Post filled March 2022
	Clinical Nurse Manager Specialist 1 (Mental Health)	1	Campaign Commenced
	Clinical Nurse Specialist (Mental Health)	1	Interviews complete
	Occupational Therapist, Senior (0.5 coordinator post added to the 0.5 OT post to convert to Fulltime)	1	In recruitment process
	Dietician, Senior	1	Campaign underway with CPL recruitment
	Consultant, Paediatrician	0.2	Progressing with medical manpower GUH
	Grade IV	1	Post offered
<b>Total WTE</b>		9.2	

Numbers of in-patient beds – there are no dedicated Eating Disorder inpatient beds. There are 20 CAMHS Inpatient beds available in the Unit. The Unit has a Senior Dietician and a Clinical Nurse Specialist in the Unit to address the needs of service users presenting with ED requirements.

Waiting lists – Waiting lists are not recorded by diagnosis - Our systems do not record and report by e.g. Eating Disorder vs ADHD vs Schizophrenia etc. A report can only be provided by how many referrals, how many seen, how many waiting but not by their diagnoses.

Numbers of patients attending, inpatient/ day patients/ outpatients - this information is not recorded. We do not record waiting lists by Diagnosis.

<p>Has the staffing complement been filled - See team staffing update as above.</p> <p>Please provide clarity on how tube feeding/ enteral feeding is managed in the adolescence age group from a clinical aspect and from the aspect of the Mental Health Act – Any Naso-gastric feeding is carried out following District Court approval of application by CAMHS Consultant Psychiatrists. The procedure is carried out following best practice by Nursing staff who have specialist training in this procedure.</p> <p><b>Breda Crehan-Roche, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare West</b></p>		
<b>W98Q3226</b>	<p>The following is an extract from the standard letter an applicant for Home Support Services receives when their application is refused:</p> <p>“.....The Forum considered your application including your clinical and social care needs and based on a standardised resource allocations and assessment process, it has been determined that you do not meet the criteria for a home support service at this time. ...”</p> <p>Can you please let me know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who are the Forum</li> <li>• Who is on the forum and what grades (positions in the HSE they hold)</li> <li>• Where are they based and how often do they meet</li> <li>• What criteria are used to assess the clinical and social care needs of the applicant</li> <li>• Please explain the standardised resource allocations and assessment process</li> <li>• Why can't the HSE state clearly the reasons why an applicant is being refused Home Support Services rather than issuing a generic refusal letter</li> <li>• Can you outline exactly what conditions / criteria qualify a person to receive Home Support Services</li> </ul>	<b>Cllr M Kilcoyne</b>
<p><b>Who are the Forum?</b></p> <p>The Home Support Forum is made up of Home Help Coordinator, Assistant Director of Public Health Nursing or Public Health Nurse representative, Acute Hospital Discharge Coordinator and Home Support Manager.</p> <p><b>Who is on the forum and what grades (positions in the HSE they hold)</b></p> <p>As mentioned above the representatives are Home Help Coordinator, Assistant Director of Public Health Nursing or Public Health Nurse representative, Acute Hospital Discharge Coordinator and Home Support Manager.</p> <p><b>Where are they based and how often do they meet?</b></p> <p>Community Healthcare West has three Home Support Forum's, one per county that meet weekly to review all application for Home Support within their specific areas in Galway, Roscommon or Mayo.</p> <p><b>What criteria are used to assess the clinical and social care needs of the applicant?</b></p> <p>Clinical assessment Tools are used which takes into account the clinical and social care needs of the client, to include family and community supports available.</p> <p><b>Please explain the standardised resource allocations and assessment process?</b></p> <p>The Home Support Forum carries out a review of all information submitted for Home Support referral and assessment in a standardised approach across Community Healthcare West. The assessment used may be a Common Summary assessment Record (CSAR) or InterRAI (an international IT comprehensive care needs assessment).</p>		

**Why can't the HSE state clearly the reasons why an applicant is being refused Home Support Services rather than issuing a generic refusal letter?**

- Applications/referral forms are received into CHO West Older Persons- Home Support services
- The Home Support service will issue an acknowledgement to client and referrer, as appropriate
- The Home Support service will issue a request for a care needs assessment within 3 working days of date of receipt of application (if assessment has not already been completed)
- Each application will be discussed at Home Support Forum, when both application form and care needs assessment are received
- The Home Support service will communicate the outcome of the Home Support Forum to the client and referrer, and a schedule of care will be agreed
- The Home Support service will source a suitable carer, and if no carer is available the client is added to the waiting list

The hours delivered in January 2022 in Mayo were 54708.

**Can you outline exactly what conditions / criteria qualify a person to receive Home Support Services?**

Clinical assessment which takes into account of the clinical and social care needs of the client, to include family and community supports available.

**Breda Crehan-Roche, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare West**

<b>W98Q3227</b>	<p>In relation to County Mayo:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How many West Doc clinics and their locations</li> <li>• How many GP's are involved in the service and how many locum doctors</li> <li>• How many calls did the service receive in 2019, in 2020 and in 2021</li> <li>• What is the average wait time for a patient from the initial phone call to be seen by the doctor</li> <li>• What was the longest wait time to be seen by the doctor</li> <li>• How many patients were seen in person by the doctor(a) in their home and (b) in the clinic</li> <li>• In how many cases did the patient request to be seen by a doctor but the doctor deemed it not necessary</li> <li>• What was the total cost of providing the service in 2019, 2020 and 2021</li> </ul>	<b>Clr M Kilcoyne</b>
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**How many Mayo Westdoc clinics and their locations:**

7, Ballinrobe, Westport, Castlebar, Ballina, Knock, Achill, Belmullet.

**How many GP's are involved in the service and how many locum doctors:**

88, number of Locums varies.

**How many calls did the service receive in 2019, in 2020 and in 2021**

- Calls Received 2019: 36,342
- Calls Received 2020: 29,883
- Calls Received 2021: 33,222

**What is the average wait time for a patient from the initial phone call to be seen by the doctor:**

Emergency 45 minutes, urgent 90 minutes and routine up to 5 hours.

**What was the longest wait time to be seen by the doctor:**

Non-urgent up to 5 hours.

**How many patients were seen in person by the doctor(a) in their home and (b) in the clinic:**



- Home Visit 2019: 1324 and Treatment Centre 2019: 22,878
- Home Visit 2020: 743 and Treatment Centre 2020: 10,676
- Home Visit 2021: 588 and Treatment Centre 2021: 8,551

**In how many cases did the patient request to be seen by a doctor but the doctor deemed it not necessary:**

All requests by patients to be seen by a doctor is based on Clinical needs.

**What was the total cost of providing the service in 2019, 2020 and 2021:**

Cost of Mayo service included in overall funding of Westdoc.

2021 €3,998,936

2020 €3,998,936

2019 €4,026,800.

**Brian O'Keeffe, Chief Officer, Westdoc**

<b>W98Q3228</b>	<p>What is the up to date position in relation to the proposed new A &amp; E unit and Mayo University Hospital</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have the plans/drawings been finalised</li> <li>• Has planning permission been applied for</li> <li>• Has funding been provided for it</li> <li>• What is the expected start date of the build</li> <li>• What is the expected date that it will be operational</li> </ul>	<b>ClIr M Kilcoyne</b>
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A full design team has been appointed to progress the Emergency Department and Medical Assessment Unit project at Mayo University Hospital. The design team are familiarising themselves with the site and the project. It is anticipated that the preliminary outline design will be available before the end of Quarter 2 2022. A planning permission application is anticipated in due course once the design process has been sufficiently advanced. This project is included in the HSE Capital Plan and sufficient funding is available in 2022 to meet the anticipated cash flow requirements arising. The timeline for commencement of construction is dependent on the time required to complete the design and tender process. The overall project programme is currently being reviewed in parallel with the preliminary design process (stage 1).

**Joe Hoare, Assistant National Director, Capital & Estates West**

<b>W98Q3229</b>	<p>Mayo University Hospital positions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the total number of Consultant positions in Mayo University Hospital</li> <li>• How many positions are vacant and how many are currently been filled by locums</li> <li>• What is the total number of agency personnel currently employed at Mayo University Hospital and state the number in each discipline/grade</li> </ul>	<b>ClIr M Kilcoyne</b>
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**What are the total number of Consultant positions in Mayo University Hospital**

The total funded consultant post for Mayo University hospital is 64

Total in post at present is 60.5 including Locums.

**How many positions are vacant and how many are currently been filled by locums**

1. Current permanent vacant posts unfilled are 9, all of these have been newly approved in 2021 and 2022 (4 of these 9 are shared post with CHO/UHG).
2. Current permanent vacant posts filled by locum 5 (2 of which will be permanent in the coming months)
3. Other Locum posts for Sick leave, Maternity leave and Covid care is 5.5 WTE

**What is the total number of agency personnel currently employed at Mayo University Hospital and state the number in each discipline/grade**

Agency Personnel: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WTE 1 - laboratory aide in Histology</li> <li>• WTE 1 - Speech &amp; Language Therapist</li> <li>• WTE 1 - Podiatrist</li> <li>• WTE 1 - Information Services Manager</li> <li>• WTE 1 - General Operative</li> <li>• WTE 33 - HCA's / Support</li> <li>• WTE 4 - Nursing</li> </ul>		
<b>T. Canavan, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group</b>		
<b>W98Q3230</b>	Day Care Services restoration in Carndonagh How many OPS from Carndonagh have availed of Day Care services to commence Tue Mar 1 <sup>st</sup> and Thur Mar 3 <sup>rd</sup> at Clonmany High Support Unit? What number of Carndonagh clients can avail of the service? Has progress occurred regarding sourcing a suitable building for Day Service provision in Carndonagh town?	<b>Cllr A Doherty</b>
<p>When open to full capacity some sixty to seventy clients had attended the Day Hospital in Carndonagh over 5 days.</p> <p>Capacity at Clonmany when open fully for the two days (Tuesday and Thursdays) will be twenty – thirty per week.</p> <p>At present one former client of the Carndonagh Day Hospital attends Clonmany Day Centre two days per week and two former clients of the Carndonagh Day Hospital attend the Buncrana Day Hospital in the Slieve Sneacht Centre, Drumfries two days per week.</p> <p>At the moment anyone wishing to attend either Buncrana or Clonmany day centres have been accommodated and that some potential clients approached about attending are still wary of going into groups.</p> <p>The DON at Carndonagh Community Hospital will be liaising with local Public Health Nurses in the coming weeks to identify potential new service users for the proposed day hospital at Clonmany.</p>		
<b>Dermot Monaghan, A/Chief Officer, CHO1</b>		
<b>W98Q3231</b>	Media sources state that, "A recent internal audit report (2020) found no justification had been provided for the expenditure of 1.1 million Euro with a non-framework agency by the HSEs mental health services in the west of Ireland" What were the pressing issues that required services sought outside of a National Framework Agreement? What response steps have the HSE undertaken to ensure the provision of Mental Health Services will come from, a) an adequate HSE staff complement, b) an adequate staff reserve/support panel is in place, c) Agency staff utilised and required are part of a national framework agreement?	<b>Cllr A Doherty</b>
<p>CHO 1 were found to be compliant in the internal audit report referred to in this question.</p> <p><b>Dermot Monaghan, A/Chief Officer, CHO1</b></p> <p>The workforce has to be flexible to ensure adequate safe staffing levels in all areas.</p>		

Nationally the demand for Registered Mental Health Nurses and care staff exceeds the supply. The following reasons places demands on requiring additional staff.

- Levels of observation as per policy (extra staff required)
- Implementing family friendly policies/legislation (eg parental leave, paternity leave, parents leave, maternity leave)
- Long term sick leave
- Delays in the recruitment process, for various reasons including staff not accepting posts,
- Staff resignations due to retirements and staff travelling
- Staff career breaks

Due to the demands on staffing, increased staffing levels are required on occasions, due to short term sick leave, physical assault leave, levels of observations (one to one)

The recruitment of staff into promotional posts – from our current staffing levels impacts also as the is backfill required for the substantive vacant post.

Redeployment or reassignment of staff is first considered, rehiring retired staff and staff on reduced working hours are requested if available to work extra hours before any consideration is given to overtime or agency staff being utilised.

In relation to the National agreed HSE framework, these agencies are not always in a position to supply staff. The supply of staff from the agency does not always meet the demands of the service. The Nurse Manager on duty contacts the agencies listed on the HSE framework in the first instance when agency staff are required. If the agency is unable to supply staff, the nurse manager may have no alternative, but to contact other agencies to ensure there is safe staffing levels in the clinical and community settings at all times.

**Breda Crehan-Roche, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare West**

<b>W98Q3232</b>	How many people are on the waiting list in Sligo University Hospital for hip or knee replacements, and the number waiting for less than 1 year, more than 1 year and more than 2 years?	<b>Clr D Bree</b>
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Active - Orthopaedics Hip & Knee Replacement Waiting List - PTL 9th March 2022										
Specialty	procname	0-3 Mths	3-6 Mths	6-9 Mths	9-12 Mths	12-15 Mths	15-18 Mths	18-24 Mths	24-36 Mths	Grand Total
Orthopaedics	Revision THR Total Hip Replacement	1	3	2	4			1		11
	Revision TKR Total Knee Replacement		2	1	1	2			1	7
	THR Total Hip Replacement	21	15	5	2	4	3	2	2	54
	TKR Total Knee Replacement	9	8	5	2	3	4	1	2	34
	Uncemented Total Hip Replacement THR		3							3
Grand Total		31	31	13	9	9	7	4	5	109

**A. Cosgrove, COO, Saolta University Health Care Group**

<b>W98Q3233</b>	Can the Forum be provided with the number of patients on each of the	<b>Clr D Bree</b>
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	categories of inpatient and day-case waiting lists at Sligo University Hospital?	
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Active - Day Case Waiting List - PTL 9th March 2022												
Case Type	Specialty	0-3 Mths	3-6 Mths	6-9 Mths	9-12 Mths	12-15 Mths	15-18 Mths	18-24 Mths	24-36 Mths	36-48 Mths	48+ Mths	Grand Total
Day Case	Dermatology	30	2									32
	Endocrinology		1		2							3
	General Medicine	201	85	8		1	1					296
	General Surgery	273	258	123	15	7	3	5	1			685
	Gynaecology	129	95	69	18	17	14		5			347
	Neurology	51	13	5	6	3	1	1	1			81
	Ophthalmology	348	132	82	51	17	27	21	38	1	1	718
	Orthopaedics	97	53	37	20	29	32	15	43	1		327
	Otolaryngology (ENT)	35	15	11	3	1	2	2	2			71
	Pain Relief	34	48	30	10	6	5	6	4	2		145
	Rheumatology	108	62	49	19	17	18	5	10			288
	Urology	33	39	20	16	13	16	1				138
Day Case Total		1339	803	434	160	111	119	56	104	4	1	3131

Case Type	Specialty	0-3 Mths	3-6 Mths	6-9 Mths	9-12 Mths	12-15 Mths	15-18 Mths	18-24 Mths	24-36 Mths	36-48 Mths	48+ Mths	Grand Total
Inpatient	General Surgery	30	36	20	7	5	5	6	8			117
	Gynaecology	27	23	21	11	4	9	9	14			118
	Ophthalmology	6										6
	Orthopaedics	50	33	21	34	22	35	15	29	1		240
	Otolaryngology (ENT)	98	56	31	18	8	9	10	40	16	7	293
	Rheumatology	1	19		2	1		1				24
	Urology	20	11	4				1				36
Inpatient Total		232	178	97	72	40	58	42	91	17	7	834

**A. Cosgrove, COO, Saolta University Health Care Group**

<b>W98Q3234</b>	How many dentists in (1) Sligo, (2) Leitrim, provide services to people under the GMS medical card scheme?	<b>Clr D Bree</b>
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There are three dentists in Co. Sligo currently treating patients under the medical card scheme (Dental Treatment Services Scheme, DTSS) with one dentist in Co Leitrim.

**Dermot Monaghan, A/Chief Officer, CHO1**

<b>W98Q3235</b>	Can the Forum have a breakdown of the numbers of young people in Sligo who are currently awaiting appointments with CAMHS; the length of time they have been waiting; what steps are being taken to address waiting lists and what safeguards are in place to ensure they are receiving adequate and safe care?	<b>Clr D Bree</b>
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The HSE Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) provide mental health services to Children up to the age of 18 years, who have moderate to severe mental health disorders that require the input of a Multi-Disciplinary Team (as per CAMHS Operational Guideline 2nd ed. June 2019)

The table below reflects waiting time;

CAMHS WAITING TIMES END OF FEBRUARY 2022		
Wait Time	No of Patients	
0-3 Months	88	
3-6 Months	22	
6-9 Months	21	
9-12 Months	15	
12-15 Months	1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>147</b>	

Sligo Leitrim CAMHS are members of the CHO1 CAMHS Service Improvement Programme and have also established their own local CAMHS Service Improvement Group. Service improvements have been achieved throughout 2021 with the overall waiting list for children and adolescents waiting for an initial assessment reducing significantly. Work is on-going in sustaining and improving service delivery and a CHO1 submission in December 2021 has been made to the national CAMHS wait list initiative fund, to support the further reduction in waiting list numbers. We await the outcome of this decision.

CAMHS teams prioritise emergency and urgent referrals on a daily basis. As such, all urgent and high risk cases are contacted immediately via telephone by one of the NCHDs on Call for an immediate assessment including an out of hours on call service for evenings and weekends. For routine or non-urgent referrals, the child or adolescent remains in the care of the referrer until a CAMHS appointment becomes available. In the interim, referrers can contact the team at any time if they have additional concerns and we often recommend other community based services, such as North West Stop and Pieta House,

Sligo Leitrim Mental Health Services are in the process of establishing an Early Intervention Youth Mental Health Service. This will provide bespoke services tailored to meet the emerging psychological and Mental Health needs of young people in the area. The team consists of:

- Senior Psychologist – recruited on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022;
- Clinical Nurse Specialist - final recruitment stage with estimated start date on week 4, March 2022;
- Implementation Officer – final recruitment stage with estimated start date on week 1, April 2022;

**Dermot Monaghan, A/Chief Officer, CHO1**

<b>W98Q3236</b>	What is the update on the appointment of a radiographer to Donegal Town Community hospital?	<b>Cllr T Conaghan</b>
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**Not available at time of print.**

<b>W98Q3237</b>	Going forward what are the plans for the Covid Test Centre at the O Cleary Centre Donegal Town?	<b>Cllr T Conaghan</b>
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We are awaiting guidance on the future testing strategy from National and we will revert when we have a definite response.

**Dermot Monaghan, A/Chief Officer, CHO1**

<b>W98Q3238</b>	Are there any plans to provide a regular/ visiting Chronic Pain Clinic at the Primary Care Centre in Donegal Town?	<b>Cllr T Conaghan</b>
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At present we do not provide such a service however it is a service that we will be looking into providing in the future.

**Dermot Monaghan, A/Chief Officer, CHO1**

<b>W98Q3239</b>	What is the current condition and operational status of the ambulance station at University Hospital Galway and Merlin Park Hospital?	<b>Cllr J Connolly</b>
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NAS and our staff working in Galway have been seeking a new Ambulance Base for a number of years. While the Health and Safety Authority have inspected the current facility and found that it complies with basic regulations, we believe that our staff should have access to a new and purpose built facility that will support their wellbeing and the delivery of services in Galway well into the future.

In this context, we are very pleased that with the support of HSE Estates, a new purpose built Ambulance Base for Galway has now been completed at a cost of €4.9m. The final stages of commissioning have now been completed and the base is ready to become operational.

In terms of identifying an opening date, we are advised by SIPTU that staff are seeking some form of compensation to move from the current base to the new purpose built facility. The HSE is not in a position to accede to this request and consequently the move to the new Ambulance Base has become the subject of an industrial dispute which has been referred to Workplace Relations Commission (WRC). As this process remains ongoing, we are not in a position to provide a definitive date for the full operationalisation of the new Ambulance Base in Galway.

**JJ McGowan, Chief Ambulance Officer - West**

<b>W98Q3240</b>	When is the planning application likely to be lodged for the new permanent A&E at University Hospital Galway?	<b>Cllr J Connolly</b>
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The proposed new ED and Women & Children's development at UHG is a large and extremely complex project, requiring a number of enabling works contracts to be completed on site before the ED W&C project can commence. It is important to note that this is a project in excess of €100m and is therefore subject to the full rigours of the latest Public Spending Code as published by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER). A Preliminary Business Case is currently being prepared for submission to the DPER. Consequently, this project will require Government approval on the Preliminary Business Case and at two other project milestones prior to any contractor procurement or construction. The Government is the Approving Authority on a project in excess of €100m. In addition the project may be subject to an independent review and assurance mechanism as indicated in the Public Spending Code.

Once the Preliminary Business Case is approved, we will be able to provide a date for the planning application for the new ED and Women & Children's development at UHG.

However, works in support of additional Covid accommodation are progressing on site at UHG with the construction of the interim (temporary) ED (under current Emergency COVID-19 legislation & regulations (SI 93 & SI 113). This accommodation shall also serve as an enabling advanced works project to clear the site for the permanent ED and Women & Children's development. Works commenced in June 2021 and are programmed to be completed in Q2 2022. A Grant of Planning for a second advanced contract was approved by Galway City Council Planning Department for a new Out-Patients Department (and a standalone Adult Cystic Fibrosis OPD) at Merlin Park University Hospital. These projects are currently at detailed design stage and will be issued to tender thereafter. Works are currently programmed to commence on site in Q3 2022 and having the new facility ready for Q3 2023.

**T. Canavan, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group**

<b>W98Q3241</b>	What were the monthly occupancy levels at the Acute Mental Health Facility at University Hospital Galway in 2021?	<b>Cllr J Connolly</b>
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**Occupancy Levels at the AAMHU 2021:**

2021 by Month	Bed days used	Bed Occupancy rate
January	1056	

	February	1316		
	March	1364		
	April	1380		
	May	1519		
	June	1410		
	July	1426		
	August	1457		
	September	1260		
	October	1488		
	November	1020		
	December	1457		
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>16153</b>	<b>88.51%</b>	

**Breda Crehan-Roche, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare West**

<b>W98Q3242</b>	How much has the Saolta group paid for ambulance services provided by Private Ambulance Operators in 2019, 2020 and 2021?	<b>Cllr J Connolly</b>
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**Private Ambulance Expenditure Saolta Group**

2019 - €4,235,509

2020 - €4,046,845

2021 - €4,555,785

**T. Canavan, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group**

<b>W98Q3243</b>	Can the HSE inform members of this Forum if planning permission was granted for extra car park spaces at Roscommon County Hospital.	<b>Cllr T Ward</b>
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In order to progress planned developments including additional care parking spaces, a revised spatial plan is currently being developed for Roscommon University Hospital. Upon completion of the new spatial plan, an application for funding for additional car parking spaces will be submitted.

**A. Cosgrove, COO, Saolta University Health Care Group**

<b>W98Q3244</b>	Can the HSE give update on the proposed 50 bedroom unit that is to be built at the Sacred Heart Hospital Roscommon?	<b>Cllr T Ward</b>
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The design for the new 50 bed block is progressing well. It is anticipated that a planning permission application will be lodged during Quarter 2 2022.

**Joe Hoare, Assistant National Director, Capital & Estates West**

<b>W98Q3245</b>	Can the HSE inform members of this Forum what is the waiting time for dental treatment for primary school children in the south Roscommon area and the rest of County Roscommon? how many is on the waiting list.	<b>Cllr T Ward</b>
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**Waiting Times**

The following hereunder are the waiting times in respect of the different priorities;-

- There is no delay for emergency appointments – they will be seen immediately
- Any child for special care referral will be seen almost immediately, however for
- Children in school going target classes for routine examination the waiting times vary;-
  - 6<sup>th</sup> class some being seen presently in all locations in Roscommon and others will have a 4-5 month wait to be seen
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> class > 1 year
  - 4<sup>th</sup> class > 2 years
- Children waiting on General Anaesthetic services have no service at the moment and so all are waiting. RUH has not had any GA Paediatric service since March 2020, they are all waiting and some have been

accommodated where possible in MUH or PUH GUH.

In context of GUH: only emergency Dental GA cases have been accommodated so far this year due to current theatre capacity challenges.

### Waiting Lists

- In the South Roscommon Area, there are approximately 1300 on the waiting list and in
- County Roscommon, there are approximately 4700

As outlined above, dental services are currently prioritising emergencies/priority cases special care and referrals from CHI/Orthodontics /REISS while seeing 2021/2022 6<sup>th</sup> classes.

**Breda Crehan-Roche, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare West**

<b>W98Q3246</b>	Can the HSE inform members of this Forum as to how many people are on a waiting list to have a medical procedures carried out from County Roscommon, and what are the waiting times for the different categories ?	<b>Cllr T Ward</b>
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The table below gives the no. of patients from Co. Roscommon awaiting a medical or surgical procedure in all hospitals in the Saolta Group.

Row Labels	0-3 Mths	3-6 Mths	6-9 Mths	9-12 Mths	12-15 Mths	15-18 Mths	18-24 Mths	24-36 Mths	36-48 Mths	48+ Mths	Grand Total
<b>Galway University Hospitals</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>756</b>
Anaesthetics	5										5
Cardiology	30	27	15	12	12	3	4	2			105
Cardio-Thoracic Surgery	6	2									8
Dermatology	1										1
Endocrinology							1	1			1
Gastro-Enterology	20	4	9	6		1	1	1			42
General Surgery	22	9	7	3	4	5	5	16	3	6	80
Gynaecology	10	2	2	1		1	1	1			18
Neurology	2	1						1	1	1	6
Ophthalmology	50	24	10	5	3	1	1	4			98
Oral Surgery	9	7	4	4	1		4	6	1		36
Orthopaedics	25	26	28	8	5	9	12	20	7	3	143
Otolaryngology (ENT)	11	5	1	4	3	6	2	2	1		35
Pain Relief	10	8	8	4	4	9	2	5			50
Plastic Surgery	9	7	6	4		3	3	13	2	4	51
Respiratory Medicine	1										1
Urology	24	8	7	3	3	3	3	6	4	3	64
Vascular Surgery	1	3	3			1		2	2		12
<b>Mayo University Hospital</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>94</b>
Gastro-Enterology					1						1
General Medicine	9	3	1	2		2	2	5			24
General Surgery	1					1		1			3
Gynaecology	10	3	2	2	1		2	3	1	2	26
Orthopaedics	12	13	2	2		2		5	3	1	40
<b>Portlincula University Hospital</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>164</b>
Cardiology	3										3
Gastro-Enterology		1									1
General Medicine	1										1
General Surgery	39	24	5	4	4			1			77
Gynaecology	14	15	12	1			1		3	2	48
Pain Relief	1	3		1							5
Plastic Surgery	6										6
Respiratory Medicine	1										1
Urology	11	3	3	1	2	1	1				22
<b>Roscommon University Hospital</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>500</b>
Gastro-Enterology	33	29	5	1							68
General Surgery	122	60	22	6	5	10	6	1			232
Oral Surgery	8	5	2	3		1	1				20
Plastic Surgery	29	22	6	3	8	2	3	11	2		86
Urology	29	14	9	10	10	2	5	5			84
Vascular Surgery	8	2									10
<b>Sligo University Hospital</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>11</b>			<b>265</b>
Dermatology	1										1
Endocrinology	1										1
General Medicine	16	7	1								24
General Surgery	22	18	13	1		1					55
Gynaecology	9	10	6	2		3	1	1			32
Neurology	1				1						2
Ophthalmology	29	3	5	1	1		3	3			45
Orthopaedics	10	4	6	4	3	3	2	4			36
Otolaryngology (ENT)	7	1	1		1			3			13
Pain Relief	5				2						7
Rheumatology	25	5	3	3	1	1					38
Urology	8	1	2								11
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>705</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>1779</b>

**A. Cosgrove, COO, Saolta University Health Care Group**



<b>W98Q3247</b>	The vacant HSE buildings in County Leitrim and has feasibility study been done why they are not been used in towns and villages. This is about empty buildings that have been idle for 5 to 10 years or more in Leitrim that are under HSE ownership. What are the reason for this.	<b>Cllr F Gurn</b>
<p>The following are some details in respect of empty buildings in Co Leitrim;</p> <p>Mohill: No's 2 and 3 Hyde Terrace. These are two storey terraced houses that were previously used for Mental Health client accommodation Each house has 2 bedrooms. Significant refurbishment is required to upgrade the properties. These houses have been offered to Leitrim County Council for Housing purposes but this has been declined. The HSE intends to dispose of these properties as they are surplus to requirements.</p> <p>Manorhamilton: O'Dells Bungalow: A 3 bedroom bungalow being refurbished by the HSE for use as a respite facility by Mental Health Services.</p> <p>Bank House: A 4 Bedroomed 2 storey town house that was previously used for residential purposes by Mental Health Services. This property was under consideration for conversion to office accommodation but this is not proceeding. The property was offered to Leitrim County Council but declined. The house was badly damaged by fire in 2021 and is now boarded up. HSE are currently going through the procedure for placing this property on the market for sale.</p> <p>Fox's House, New Line: This property is being used as a storage/archive facility by the HSE. The property is in very bad repair and its future use is under review by the HSE.</p> <p>Kinlough: Old Health Centre. The building is being used as a storage facility by the Ambulance Service and will continue to be needed for this purpose.</p> <p>Dowra: Old Health Centre. The building ceased being used as a Health Centre in the recent past. Future use is currently under review by the HSE</p> <p><b><i>Dermot Monaghan, A/Chief Officer, CHO1</i></b></p>		
<b>W98Q3248</b>	With the level of drug use in every town and village what are the options in the north west for treatment for individuals who have drug issues to get over their addictions.	<b>Cllr F Gurn</b>
<p>The National Drug Rehabilitation Framework (2010) is well embedded in addiction treatment services which provides a framework through which service providers ensure that individuals affected by drug misuse are offered a range of integrated options tailored to meet their needs and create for them an individual rehabilitation pathway. The rehabilitation pathway involves initial screening, followed by a journey in which a number of protocols are adhered to: initial assessment, comprehensive assessment, and support to family members, referrals, inter-agency working and case management.</p> <p>In CHO 1 a number of new initiative have developed over the past number of years to meet the demand of working with complex drug &amp; alcohol issues; in addition to enhancement of the HSE Addiction Treatment Service the HSE has proved funding to Community &amp; Voluntary organisations to provide Addiction Treatment Service to compliment and offer alternates to the Statutory provided Addiction Treatment services.</p> <p><b>1. The HSE Community Alcohol &amp; Drug Service – Donegal &amp; Sligo/Leitrim &amp; West Cavan</b> The HSE provides the statutory response to people presenting with alcohol and poly-drug use and their families concerns i. service user's needs within the area, primarily following either a GP, Medical Consultant or Psychiatric Consultant referral. The HSE Addiction Teams provide assessment, planning and treatment intervention to clients over 18 presenting with alcohol and poly-drug use. Each team also has a designated</p>		

youth counsellor (under 18). The team is comprised of nursing, counsellors and support staff. The Team are specialist in the treatment of addiction and provides a range of psychotherapeutic counselling modalities including person-centred (Rogerian), Choice Theory , Motivational interviewing, solution-focused Therapy, Cognitive Behavioural Therapy methods, Dialect Behavioural Therapy, life coaching, trauma-informed practice , relapse prevention, and aftercare support. The service facilitates opiate substitution treatment in the area in conjunction with national and local GP prescribers.

Clinics are provided for counselling appointment and assessments as close to the service users homes as possible. There is a range of drug & alcohol services throughout the NW Region. The Addiction services in the region provides a range of service e.g. Counselling, Education & Training, and Information & Support and Treatment & Rehabilitation services. General Practitioners and community pharmacies are a critical partner in the provision of detoxification and substitution treatment and needle exchange for drugs & alcohol. Information on local service can be access at <http://drugs.ie/>.

## **2. Access and Availability of additional detoxification, stabilisation and rehab beds- HSE**

CHO 1 has a service level agreement with Whiteoaks Residential Treatment Centre in Co. Donegal. Whiteoaks is a 12 bedded residential treatment centre and available to all service users deemed appropriate for intervention after assessment by Community HSE Addiction Services.

The provision of access to various treatment centres nationally has been a welcome development. This allows for better matching of patient need to treatment centres as opposed to being confined to 1 treatment centre. Currently CHO1 has an additional allocation of 10 beds per annum with clear pathways outside of our current service level agreement with Whiteoaks. Beds Available from following sites:

Service	Type
Cuan Mhuire (Across Service (Galway, Limerick)	Long Stay ( up to 3 Months)
Merchants Quay Ireland: St Francis Farm	Detox & Rehab High Park rehab
Coolmine Ashleigh House	Womens Detox Womens Rehab
Aiseiri Group Aislinn	Adolescent – Detox & Rehab
Aiseiri Group Cahir, Co. Tipperary	Detox & Short Stay Rehab
Aiseiri Group – Co. Wexford	Short Stay Rehab
Aiseiri Group – Co Waterford	Short Stay Rehab
Tabor Lodge, Cork	Short Stay Rehab
Fellowship House, Cork	Step down
Renewal Womens Service Cork	Step Down
Talbot Grove, Co. Kerry	Short Stay
Bushy Park, Co. Clare	Short Stay
Hope House, Co. Mayo	Short Stay
Peter McVerry Trust, Dublin	Detox, Short Stay& Step Down
Tabor House Navan	Step Down
Dublin Simon	Detox
Dublin Simon HIV Respite Stabilisation	Short Stay
Rutland Rehab	Short Stay
St Michael's Ward, Beaumont, Dublin	Stabilisation & Detox
Cuan Dara, Cherry Orchard, Dublin	Ongoing review

### **3. Opioid Substitution Treatment**

As part of the roll out of the suboxone (buprenorphine / naloxone) project, which began in 2018, each CHO area was allocated a number of Suboxone places – this equates to the number of patients who can be prescribed Suboxone. Extra funding has been provided to expand the suboxone project; therefore CHO 1 now has an allocation of 17 places. Suboxone is used the treatment of opiate / heroin addiction as a medicinal project to replace the illegal substance to promote recovery.

### **4. Assertive Community outreach: ( Donegal west Cavan, Sligo, Leitrim) Task Force**

Flexible non-judgemental service to provide support guidance and education to drug / alcohol users their families and communities, enabling them to cope with the effects of drug / alcohol use in their everyday lives. 1.5 staff in Donegal, 1.5 in Sligo and Leitrim

### **5. Family Support – HSE & Task Force & Alcohol Forum**

A number of new initiatives have developed in the area for family support as it is well recognised that families need support in their own right. Developments include:

Strengthening Families Programme (SFP): (Donegal west Cavan, Sligo & Donegal), this 12 week programmes is aimed at 6-11 yr olds plus their caregivers and 12-16 year olds. The aim is to minimise the impact of mental health problems plus alcohol & drug misuse children, young people and their families.

M-PACT: (Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, West Cavan, South Donegal). This is an 8 week family based intervention aimed at supporting children and affected other by parental alcohol / substance misuse.

Family Support Workers; the aim is create a network of family support across the CHO area providing 1:1 counselling and development of supportive family hubs. The family support worker is based in Rossinver, Co. Leitrim.

REACH – This is a new teen support programme in Donegal established in Jan 2019 to support young people between the ages of 13-17 who are affected by parental substance misuse.

HOPE – Hope is evidence- informed six week online programme for the whole family. It is a skilled based programme for families experiencing challenges that arise from family stress, conflict alcohol and or drug use. It is delivered online with families with skilled facilitators.

Foroige – Youth education and prevention programmes. Service supported by the NWRDTF to provide education and brief intervention to young people in the North West.

### **6. SMART Recovery – HSE & Task Force**

SMART Recovery is a group-based intervention based on Rational Emotive Behaviour Therapy (REBT). There are two trained facilitators, one based in Sligo town, the other in Rossinver. Both have the capacity to provide face to face and online meetings.

A new Recovery group was set up in Donegal using principles of SMART recovery which is a CBT based intervention approach. The group is easy access and open referral. The aim of the recovery group is to help individuals gain independence from addictive behaviours and to equip participants with the tools to make health lifestyle choices. During Covid this was paused and was diverted to online – opening up to a wider geographical audience. Currently open to all service users in the NW via online.

### **7. Nurse Prescribing - HSE**

Nurse prescribing was initiated in Donegal in 2018 – this is one of the first nurse prescribers in the Country within addiction services outside of Dublin. The role of the Nurse prescriber is to offer a holistic treatment

approach from referral to discharge with the availability to prescribe licensed medicinal products to support recovery.

**8. Education & Training – Task Force.**

A number of training courses are now available across the CHO to help build the knowledge of staff across the Tiers and across the statutory & vol sector from certificate to MSc level

SAOR – the national model of screening & brief Interventions has been rolled out across the CHO and will continue to be available this year. The SAOR model is to equip frontline staff across the Health service to be able to identify problematic alcohol use, intervene early and refer onwards.

**9. An Chead Cheim - Donegal**

This centre provides drop in support, guidance, family support and assists in referrals to the Tier 3 & Tier 4 services across the Country. The centre has charitable status and was funded last year by the HSE.

**10. Community Drugs Rehab Schemes – DSP, HSE, Task Force.**

The CE scheme has been set up across the CHO area, the approximate number of places available per county varies. Approximately each County in the Cho has 12 places.

The Community Employment Drugs Rehabilitation Framework is focused on facilitating the participation of individuals who are identified by the drug addiction and treatment services and referred to a CE drug rehabilitation place. Under this Framework, participants will have access to multiple supports and specialist inputs as required from social, education and health services including the supports provided by the Department of Social Protection as offered through CE, and as required by the individual's substance misuse Care Plan.

**11. Community Action on Alcohol – HSE, Alcohol Forum,.**

This is a community action plan which mobilises multiple stake holders at local level to reduce alcohol harm in, the plan includes measures across health, criminal justice and education and welfare. This service has been access by communities in Sligo, Donegal and Letrim

**12. Clinical Exercise Physiology service – Donegal.**

This is a specialist service that was commenced last year as a pilot within Donegal Mental Health Service supporting the physical healthcare needs of services users in recovery from alcohol, & substance misuse with a co –occurring metal health disorder. The service takes a holistic approach to the bio-psycho-social needs of the service user promoting diet and physical activity as a key vehicle in recovery. The service provides individual tailored care plans and works within the best available evidence. The service will continue for the remainder of 2022 with the hope of sustaining thereafter.

**13. Carlin House – Donegal.**

Carlin house opened in late 2021 as a step-down care facility. Step down care offers a longer term intervention for those presenting with more complex needs to lengthen their time in supported recovery. The service is integrated in the community providing supported housing, and a structured rehab programme for up to 14 weeks post primary treatment.

**14. Aftercare support – Donegal,**

This is a weekly check in support group for people who complete residential and or 1:1 counselling. The group meet once a week in Letterkenny and is facilitated by a member of staff from the Community drug and alcohol team. The group focuses on positive recovery and problem solving for ongoing recovery maintenance.

**15. Aftercare Support– Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim & west Cavan.**

This group is facilitated by a support worker providing support for those who complete primary residential treatment.

Any presentations to Sligo University Hospital or Letterkenny University Hospital are dealt with as emergency attendances who are seen and treated and may be referred to other services where required.

**Dermot Monaghan, A/Chief Officer, CHO1**

<b>W98Q3249</b>	Has the HSE seen an increase in people who are addicted to prescription drugs like opioids for pain use which has occurred and destroyed communities in America Watch dope sick to show the problems it caused Has research or data shown increase in people who are addicted to Prescription drugs.	<b>Cllr F Gurn</b>
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Prescription medication, including opioid products, have legitimate and essential roles across health care settings, such as for use in Palliative and end of life care. However, the misuse potential is recognised relating to opioids including Oxiconon and for this reason it is categorised as a Schedule 1 substance by the United Nations, meaning it is liable to strict controls.

While opioid markets continue to shift from injecting heroin use, the European region has not experienced the emergence of opioid related issues to the same extent as North America. North America has experienced considerable morbidity and mortality associated with the misuse of prescription opioids, rising levels of heroin use and, most recently, the emergence of highly potent synthetic opioids, in particular fentanyl derivatives emerging in products across their drug markets.

According to the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), one of the notable differences between the two regions is that in Europe, very few populations had been presenting for specialised drug treatment for addiction to opioid pain medicines by comparison but this continues to be monitored. This reflects the different regulatory frameworks and approaches to marketing and prescribing that exist between Europe and the North America.

The HSE and relevant partners work in collaboration with local and European networks to monitor emerging trends including the diversion and use of prescription medication. In relation to the current opioid situation in Ireland, the most recent and available data indicates that heroin is still the main opioid substance of concern across treatment and death publications. The HSE and relevant partners will continue to monitor this situation.

For those who are concerned for their own or someone else's opioid use, we would encourage them to contact the HSE Drug and Alcohol Helpline on 1800 459 459 Monday – Friday 9:30 – 5:30 or email [helpline@hse.ie](mailto:helpline@hse.ie).

Free support services are available in each community nationally and can be found at [drugs.ie/services](https://drugs.ie/services). Information relating to the risks associated with 'Other opioids' can be found on the [Drugs.ie](https://drugs.ie) site [here](#).

It is recognised by the United Nations Office and Drugs and Crime (UNODC) that addressing the non-medical use of prescription drugs needs to carefully take into consideration the need to ensure the availability of these substances (that do have a recognised and much needed medical use), while preventing diversion and misuse. In response to on-going concerns regarding opioids, the UNODC implement an Opioid Strategy which includes synthetic drugs monitoring, early warning and trend analysis, national forensic and counternarcotic capacity building, law enforcement operational work, and prevention and treatment provide a unique platform for contributing to the reduction of the non-medical use of synthetic opioids.

[https://www.drugsandalcohol.ie/30059/1/UNODC\\_Opioid-Strategy-Flyer.pdf](https://www.drugsandalcohol.ie/30059/1/UNODC_Opioid-Strategy-Flyer.pdf)

**Joseph Doyle, National Lead, National Social Inclusion Office**

<b>W98Q3250</b>	Intellectual Disability & Respite provision in Inishowen, Is access to Respite now available at Riverwalk House for clients of Intellectual Disability services? What progress has occurred or is en train for clients requiring access to emergency respite services in Inishowen and has the lease, management and usage of Milltown House Carndonagh by the HSE been agreed?	<b>Cllr A Doherty</b>						
<p>Further to residential accommodation being completed for person/s with a disability currently occupying Riverwalk Respite House, it is expected that respite services for adults will resume in Riverwalk Respite House in Quarter 2, 2022. The residential accommodation is being progressed by Disability Services in conjunction with HSE Estates and Property Management services and is at an advanced stage of readiness. Recruitment for staff is also in progress with the HSE HR department. The residential property, when complete, will also have to be registered with the regulatory authority, HIQA.</p> <p>Whilst awaiting the availability of Riverwalk House, a priority centre based respite service is currently being offered at Ballymacool House, Letterkenny, as the alternative location for respite requests for people with disabilities from Inishowen.</p> <p>Additional home support packages are also available as an alternative to centre based respite to people with disabilities and their families who require respite support, and these are reviewed and enhanced as required.</p> <p>The lease, management and usage of Milltown House, Carndonagh by the HSE as a respite centre with greater capacity than Riverwalk House is being progressed by the HSE and the Milltown House Board of Management. There was a further meeting in this regard held on 15.03.2022 and both the HSE and Board of Management have agreed next steps. First the HSE Estates department will have a structural and Mica assessment of the property carried out in order to inform a plan for upgrade works which will be needed to bring Milltown House to the required regulatory standards for respite service provision. When the details of the works are identified this will inform the funding requirements for upgrading and the final terms of the lease. In the interim Milltown House continues to be used as a centre for the delivery of day services to a number of people with disabilities.</p> <p><b>Dermot Monaghan, A/Chief Officer, CHO1</b></p>								
<b>W98Q3251</b>	Can I get an update in relation to progress for a Primary Care Centre for Spiddal? Where does this project currently stand? Has a site been identified and a planning application lodged?	<b>Cllr D Ó Cualáin</b>						
<p>The HSE intends to complete the process over the coming months to identify a developer to provide primary care accommodation in Spiddal under the Operational Lease model. A number of proposals were submitted and priced offers need to be sought by the HSE's Capital &amp; Estates department to progress the project.</p> <p><b>Joe Hoare, Assistant National Director, Capital &amp; Estates West</b></p>								
<b>W98Q3252</b>	Can I get a breakdown in tabular form on the number of people currently awaiting admission to nursing homes in County Galway under the fair deal scheme and the number on waiting lists for admission to individual HSE Community nursing units throughout the county. Do individuals and their families get to choose which nursing home they wish to be admitted to and what is the current waiting time for admission and processing of applications under the fair deal scheme?	<b>Cllr D Ó Cualáin</b>						
<table><tr><td>No of people awaiting Fair Deal Funding in Co. Galway @ 11<sup>th</sup> March 2022</td><td>33</td></tr><tr><td>No. of People awaiting admission to Public Unit in Co. Galway</td><td>84 – Please note not all of these clients are in the community, some are in Private Nursing Homes.</td></tr><tr><td>Do clients get a choice of Nursing Home</td><td>Yes – where a bed is not available in their</td></tr></table>			No of people awaiting Fair Deal Funding in Co. Galway @ 11 <sup>th</sup> March 2022	33	No. of People awaiting admission to Public Unit in Co. Galway	84 – Please note not all of these clients are in the community, some are in Private Nursing Homes.	Do clients get a choice of Nursing Home	Yes – where a bed is not available in their
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No. of People awaiting admission to Public Unit in Co. Galway	84 – Please note not all of these clients are in the community, some are in Private Nursing Homes.							
Do clients get a choice of Nursing Home	Yes – where a bed is not available in their							

	Nursing Home of choice a client may decide to be admitted to another Nursing Home until a bed becomes available.	
Waiting Time for Processing of applications under Fair Deal Scheme in Galway	<p>Fair Deal Applications are processed within 2 weeks once all medical approval is in place and all financial documentation has been submitted.</p> <p>The process is delayed where the next of kin encounters difficulty in obtaining support documentation.</p> <p>Waiting time for admission is dependent on the Nursing Home of choice, we do not have this information for Private Nursing Homes.</p> <p>Waiting time for admission to Public Units varies, dependent on location. The longest waiting dates back to June 2021.</p>	

***Breda Crehan-Roche, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare West***

<b>W98Q3253</b>	Can I get an update and clarification in relation to the amalgamation of St Ann's CNU in Clifden and Clifden District Hospital, where does this project currently stand and will there be a reduction in bed capacity after the amalgamation or a reduction in the services provided. Will the hospital remain open and continue to provide respite services until the new building is completed? Are there any plans to hire additional staff to support services during the amalgamation? What services will be provided when the services will be finally amalgamated?	<b>Clr D Ó Cualáin</b>
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Community Healthcare West is committed to delivering high quality care and is cognisant of the importance of the services for older persons provided in Clifden for the large geographical catchment area.

As part of the long term plan the development of a new 40 bedded unit is underway as a replacement for St. Anne's CNU and Clifden District Hospital. The upgrade of St Anne's was committed to HIQA in terms of the enhancing of the privacy and dignity of residents of this long term care facility by the replacement of multi-occupancy rooms with shared sanitary accommodation to almost exclusively single en-suite rooms. The new build will also seek to provide for emerging needs by the inclusion of a 10 bedded dementia unit and rooms that can accommodate bariatric residents. The new build is on 2 levels with the dementia unit and 10 short stay beds (acute step down and respite) planned for the ground floor and 20 long stay beds on the upper floor. This project is currently at design stage, with planning permission expected to be applied for in Q4 2022.

When the new build is commissioned all the services and staff will be amalgamated into one. In preparation for the operation of this unified service on a single site in one building, management are implementing a change management programme and have advanced discussions to amalgamate the services, staffing, governance, policies, practices and procedures

Despite running a number of recruitment campaigns, including a recent bespoke campaign for Connemara with local advertisement, nurse staffing levels in St Anne's Designated Centre have continued to prove challenging over the last 7 years. The HSE has a regulatory, legal and ethical obligation to the residents in its care in St Anne's. On the other hand, demand for Clifden District Hospital, which provides step down services from acute hospitals has been consistently falling with average demand for this service dropping by approximately two-thirds in the same period. Covid has exacerbated the situation as the bulk of the bed capacity in Clifden

District Hospital is provided in the “14 bedded “male and female wards against a background of the requirement and patient expectation for higher infection prevention and control standards. The HSE must ensure that available nurses are prioritised to St Anne’s Designated Centres to meet their obligations. The number of total nurses available on a consistent basis is the key determinant of the maximum number of beds in older person that can be open, underpinned by demand.

There are no plans to reduce any services in Clifden DH pending the completion of the new build. The hospital remain open and continue to provide respite services until the new building is completed. Respite services can currently be facilitated in Clifden DH.

Day Services have recommenced in Clifden District Hospital and we have recently secured funding for a bus to arrange transport for clients in the day service.

Accommodation was provided to GUH in Clifden District Hospital to facilitate it providing its radiology service there and to Westdoc as a base for the part time weekend service it provided as a support to local GPs. It is also planned that the existing St Anne’s building would be re-purposed and will include the relocated day care facility as well as providing the potential option for space that may be required for other services.

The amalgamation will also provide common rosters across both sites with the same shift starting and finishing times for nursing and care staff. Duplicate services such as the requirement for 2 kitchens serving an average maximum of 21 residents and 9 patients will also be amalgamated. The Public Service Agreement or “Croke Park Agreement” agreed between government and the public sector unions provides an enabler to work through these changes and the HSE have been engaging with staff and their union representatives around these changes since 2020. Staff will continue to be hired during the amalgamation.

We will continue to work with all relevant stakeholders to progress these plans as part of the joint commitment to utilise this fantastic opportunity of the new build to provide sustainable residential older people services for the population of Clifden and surrounding areas.

***Breda Crehan-Roche, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare West***

<b>W98Q3254</b>	What is the current situation in relation to The Fire Service responding to Emergency Medical Calls and Life Threatening Medical Emergencies in County Galway. Can I get a breakdown for 2020 and 2021 how many times the Fire service responded to calls to assist or respond to Medical emergency calls from The National Ambulance Service and where? What is the current service level agreement between Galway County Council and The HSE National Ambulance Service in relation to these services. Are there any plans to increase or further utilise the services of The Fire Service to provide additional services/support to respond to Emergency Medical Calls in Galway?	<b>Clir D Ó Cualáin</b>
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The fire services in North County Galway predominately the Connemara area form part of the NAS community first responder process. This encompasses the fire stations of Carraroe and Clidfen. This means these crews respond to Cardiac/Respiratory Arrests within their catchment area.

We are currently compiling figures in relation to number of dispatches however, at the time of print we currently are not in a position to provide.

The National Ambulance service met with Association of Fire Service chiefs and negotiations are on-going at a department level to further enhance the utilisation of the fire service in responding to medical emergencies.

***JJ McGowan, Chief Ambulance Officer - West***



W98Q3255	Can we get an updated report on the new community hospital for Letterkenny and the investment plans for Ramelton community nursing unit?	Cllr C Brogan																																																					
<b>Letterkenny Community Hospital</b> The proposed community hospital in Letterkenny, consisting of 110 beds comprised of long and short stay bed spaces, as well as a dedicated rehabilitation unit, is currently at detail design stage. It is scheduled to issue for tender in Q1 2022 and, subject to funding, construction is expected to commence in Q3 2022.																																																							
<b>Ramelton Community Nursing Unit - Response 19/11/21</b> The appointment of Design Teams for the major capital projects at St Joseph's and Ramelton will progress in 2022. It is intended to proceed with tender and construction in 2022/ 2023.																																																							
<b>Dermot Monaghan, A/Chief Officer, CHO1</b>																																																							
W98Q3256	Can we have an updated report on the current services being provided for patients at the primary care centre in Letterkenny?	Cllr C Brogan																																																					
Current services being provided for patients at the Primary Care Centre Letterkenny (Sally Place) are as follows; <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Occupational Therapy</li><li>• Physio Therapy</li><li>• Speech and Language Therapy</li><li>• Psychology</li><li>• Dietetics</li><li>• Public Health Nursing</li><li>• Podiatry</li></ul>																																																							
<b>Dermot Monaghan, A/Chief Officer, CHO1</b>																																																							
W98Q3257	Can we get an updated report on the number of public health nurses, community health nurses in Donegal in each area covering the county?	Cllr C Brogan																																																					
<table><tr><td></td><td>East WTE</td><td>Inishowen WTE</td><td>Dungloe WTE</td><td>South WTE</td><td>L'kenney WTE</td><td>Head Count - WTE</td></tr><tr><td>PHN's</td><td>15.1</td><td>15</td><td>9.3</td><td>15.29</td><td>13</td><td>67.69</td></tr><tr><td>CRGN</td><td>3.77</td><td>2.6</td><td>4.53</td><td>2.5</td><td>4.18</td><td>17.58</td></tr><tr><td>Enhanced Nurses</td><td>1</td><td>3.7</td><td>2.61</td><td>2</td><td>3.04</td><td>12.35</td></tr><tr><td>Totals</td><td>19.87</td><td>21.3</td><td>16.44</td><td>19.79</td><td>20.22</td><td>97.62</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Student Nurses</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>5</td></tr></table>								East WTE	Inishowen WTE	Dungloe WTE	South WTE	L'kenney WTE	Head Count - WTE	PHN's	15.1	15	9.3	15.29	13	67.69	CRGN	3.77	2.6	4.53	2.5	4.18	17.58	Enhanced Nurses	1	3.7	2.61	2	3.04	12.35	Totals	19.87	21.3	16.44	19.79	20.22	97.62								Student Nurses	1	1	1	1	1	5
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<b>Dermot Monaghan, A/Chief Officer, CHO1</b>																																																							
W98Q3258	Can we have the hospital budget for 2019, 2020, 2021, the number of (wte) currently employed at LUH by occupation, permanent, temporary, agency and the current vacancies in the hospital?					Cllr C Brogan																																																	
<b>The Hospital Budget was as follows:</b>  2019 Budget    €142.8m        2019 2020 Budget    €156.5m        2020 2021 Budget    €178.8m        2021  The WTE as at January 2022 was:																																																							

Staff Category\Calendar Year/Month	Jan-22
Management/ Admin	276.22
Medical/ Dental	225.75
Nursing/ Midwifery	713.62
Health & Social Care Professionals	197.74
General Support	303.89
Patient & Client Care	224.71
<b>Overall Result</b>	<b>1,941.93</b>

There are multiple recruitment campaigns ongoing including nursing, Facility support staff, Health & Social Care Professionals & management and administration staff.

**LUH have completed/in process the following campaigns in 2021:**

CAMPAIGN NUMBERS	Number of staff recruited	Current Vacancies
Nursing & Midwifery	54	50
Management & Admin	11	15
HSCP	17	19
Support	6	2
Patient & Client Care	4	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>93</b>

As of February 2022 there are 23.3 approved consultant posts not filled with a permanent consultant, however 18.5 of those posts are filled on a temporary basis with locum consultant. That leaves 4.8 WTE Consultant posts not filled.

There are also 10 NCHD posts, which are not filled with a HSE Contracted NCHD. Of these 4.5 WTE are filled with an NCHD employed from an Agency. 5.5 NCHD posts are currently not filled.

Four locum Consultants are due to take up post in coming months across AMAU, Urology and Breast Radiology. Interviews are on-going for filling of all Consultant positions especially in key areas such as Radiology (General & Breast), Surgery, Anaesthetics, Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Medicine are taking place on a weekly basis for locum contracts.

***T. Canavan, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group***

<b>W98Q3259</b>	Can I have the current waiting times and numbers of Children currently awaiting Assessments for Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language Therapy and Psychology Services in Donegal?	<b>CIr G McMonagle</b>
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#### **Donegal Psychology Services**

The Primary Care Child Psychology waiting list has increased substantially since the introduction of the National Access Criteria in July 2021. A significant number of children transferred from the Children's Disability Services to Primary Care Services, leading to a 100 per cent increase in the waiting list. The Psychology team have undertaken substantial work in the past three months so as to provide a service to these children and young

people within the current resources.

Waiting times for Primary Care Child Psychology Service as on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Length of Time	Numbers waiting
<12 weeks	25
>12 weeks and <26 weeks	46
>26 weeks and <18 weeks	18
>39 and <52 weeks	22
>52 weeks	49
<b>Total</b>	<b>160</b>

#### Donegal Speech & Language Therapy (SLT) Services

There are currently 580 children waiting on Primary Care SLT services in Donegal. The wait time varies from 8-12 months depending on the area. There are seven vacancies within the service at present.

#### Donegal Occupational Therapy (OT) Services

There are 275 children (aged 0 - 18 years) currently awaiting Occupational Therapy Assessment (this is a mix of Community Disability Network Team (CDNT) and Primary Care children).

Length of Time	Numbers waiting
0 – 12 weeks	26
12 – 26 weeks	37
26 – 39 weeks	52
39 – 52 weeks	31
52+ weeks	129
<b>Total</b>	<b>275</b>

#### *Dermot Monaghan, A/Chief Officer, CHO1*

<b>W98Q3260</b>	What steps are being taken by Management at LUH and the NAS to address the current issues at the Emergency Department in relation multiple ambulances being constantly delayed at LUH?	<b>Cllr G McMonagle</b>
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NAS has a responsibility to achieve an effective and timely clinical handover of patients at Emergency Departments (ED) to ensure that we can achieve our responsibility to respond to patients awaiting a response in the community and keep them safe.

In recent months, both NAS and Emergency Departments continue to be under significant pressure with the sharp rise in 999 calls and ED attendances continuing. Consequently, A2H times continue to deteriorate to the point where the loss of emergency capacity is having a deleterious impact on our ability to respond to 999 emergency calls.

Continuous extensive engagement continues on daily between the National Ambulance service and Hospitals in relation to A2H delays. However, in the context of month on month worsening of A2H delays, NAS must now consider a range of steps to protect our capacity to respond to 999 calls. The steps will include:

- **Fit2Sit** – where patients are capable of sitting, then crews will focus on finding a safe place for the patient and effecting a clinical handover as quickly as possible
- **Rapid Handover Protocol** – the current arrangements are not effective and in this regard, crews will be provided with revised protocols on how to be more proactive in effecting patient disposition at the Emergency Department in a timely manner. The Rapid Handover Protocol will provide for red flagging of

sites where A&H delays present a real risk of harm to patients awaiting a 999 response in the community.

- **NAS Cohorting** – where necessary and in the absence of clear clinical governance of patients awaiting clinical handover in the Emergency Department, NAS will request staff to engage in cohorting of patients at Emergency Departments to facilitate release of an emergency ambulance to respond to an awaiting 999 call. Crews will be provided with guidelines on how to do this safely.

***JJ McGowan, Chief Ambulance Officer - West***

A range of factors including the impact of winter, the ongoing number of patients in hospital with COVID-19 and the high numbers attending Emergency Departments who need to be admitted for ongoing care, is leading to a very high demand on hospital services within the Saolta Hospital Group and throughout the country.

This situation is extremely challenging for patients and staff in Letterkenny University Hospital and is a situation that has been conveyed to senior HSE management. This winter we are really seeing the suppressed impact of the pandemic in the number of patients who are now coming forward for treatment having delayed previously or who managed to get by, the number of patients who have COVID-19 in hospital, ongoing outbreaks in hospitals and ongoing outbreaks in residential care facilities which affect the hospitals' ability to discharge patients once their hospital treatment has been completed.

In recent weeks, at Letterkenny University Hospital, the number of patients who are attending and being admitted is regularly higher than the number of patients who are being discharged. This is putting pressure on the bed availability and has a cumulative effect.

The number of patients presenting at the ED each day remains very high.

The hospital is taking every measure available to address this including the use of additional escalation beds; these are beds that are not in full time use (while staff recruitment to open these beds is underway) which have been opened on a temporary basis by bringing in additional agency staff and by existing staff working additional hours.

The hospital is also deploying additional doctors, nurses and support staff to the Emergency Department to address the additional pressures. Every effort is being made to discharge patients who were ready to go home so that beds become available for patients who need to be admitted, at the earliest opportunity.

The hospital works closely with the National Ambulance Service on an ongoing basis to address any delays in handover of patients from ambulance staff to hospital staff.

As referenced previously, hospitals throughout the country continue to be impacted by COVID-19 with rising numbers. The number of people who require ICU care is thankfully much lower due to the protection provided by vaccination and the high uptake within the country. However, the ongoing need to provide two pathways of care for patients with COVID-19 and those patients who don't have COVID-19, puts pressure on the availability of beds. This week the number of patients with COVID-19 in Letterkenny University Hospital has reached over 80 patients on numerous days.

In 2022, Letterkenny University Hospital will work with colleagues in National Ambulance Service to introduce Pathfinder, an alternative care pathway.

This new service aims to safely keep vulnerable older people who have phoned 999/112, in their own home rather than transporting them to the ED for assessment. A specific team of staff will be employed to deliver this service including Advanced Paramedics (AP), Occupational Therapists (OT) and Physiotherapists (PT), will include a Rapid Response Vehicle (RRV) and an Electronic Patient Care Record (EPCR).

This new pathway will be introduced in a number of locations across the country.

***T. Canavan, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group***