

## Minutes of Regional Health Forum West meeting held on Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2021 at 1.00pm by Zoom.

Miontuairiscí chruinniú an Fhóiraim Sláinte Réigiúnaigh a tionóladh Dé Máirt, 23, Samhain  
2021 ag 2.00 in trí súmáil isteach

**Chairperson:** Cllr John Carroll - Cllr Gerry McMonagle took the chair at 4pm

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

### **In attendance:**

Tony Canavan, Executive Lead, Regional Health Forum/CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group  
Ann Cosgrove, Chief Operating Officer, Saolta University Health Care Group  
Colette Cowan, CEO UL Hospital Group  
Breda Crehan-Roche, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare West  
John Hayes, Chief Officer, CHO, Area 1  
Joe Hoare, Assistant National Director, Capital & Estates West  
JJ McGowan, Interim Chief Ambulance Officer, Operations West  
Charlie Meehan, Head of Service, Mental Health, CHO, Area 2  
Shannon Glynn, Head of Service, Social Care, CHO, Area 2  
Mary Warde, Head of Primary Care, CHO2  
Seamus Beirne, GM, Primary Care, CHO2  
Norah Owens, Regional Health Forum Office  
Marian Cavanagh, Regional Health Forum Office  
Anna Lyons, Regional Health Forum Office

### **779/96/21 Minutes of previous meeting - 28<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 28th September 2021 were proposed by Cllr Donal Gilroy and seconded by Cllr Albert Doherty and adopted.

### **780/96/21 Matters Arising:**

## **781/96/21 Chairman's Business:**

### **782/96/21 Update on COVID-19**

Tony Canavan, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group gave a general update to the members on COVID 19.

### **783/96/21 Questions:**

#### **W96Q3108: Update on future investment for community hospitals in Donegal:**

Cllr Ciaran Brogan requested a meeting for the Donegal members with John Hayes and relevant stakeholders.

**Action:** John Hayes to arrange this meeting.

#### **W96Q3116: Wait Lists and W96Q3141 Nursing Homes Support Scheme (NHSS)**

Tony Canavan suggested future presentations on waiting lists due to the impact of Covid and the Nursing Home Support Scheme at a Regional Health Forum Committees.

**Action:** Regional Health Forum Office to organise.

#### **W96Q3119: Staffing on hygiene duties at the Sacred Heart Hospital, Castlebar on the night shift:**

Cllr Michael Kilcoyne and Cllr Blackie Gavin to be advised on the process by which an external consultant was nominated to review the cleaning and catering staffing in Sacred Heart Hospital in Castlebar.

**Action:** Breda Crehan-Roche to respond to Cllr Kilcoyne and Cllr Gavin.

#### **W96Q3121: Alternative facility in the Carndonagh area for a new Day Hospital Service**

Cllr Albert Doherty asked to be advised of the basic requirements to enable such a centre to commence and run a Day Care service.

**Action:** J Hayes agreed to contact Estates and supply Cllr Doherty with the details of what is required for a Day Hospital in Carndonagh.

#### **W96Q3124: Sligo University Hospital - external provider used to move clinical files.**

**Action:** A Cosgrove to advise Cllr Gilroy of the name of the provider, the process of engaging with them and costings, once the current procurement process has taken place.

#### **W96Q3126: Cllr Gilroy requested a call/contact from JJ McGowan, Chief Ambulance Officer.**

**Action:** JJ McGowan, Chief Ambulance Office to make contact with Cllr Gilroy.

Regional Health Forum Office to provide contact details to Mr. McGowan.

#### **W96Q3127: New Diabetes Centre at Sligo University Hospital**

**Action:** Ann Cosgrove to provide Cllr Gilroy with an update on the utilisation of the new Diabetes Unit at SUH.

#### **W96Q3128: What is the full complement (WTE) of nurses required to staff the Accident & Emergency Department in SUH**

**Action:** A Cosgrove to revert to Cllr Bree in late January/February 2022 when a clearer indication may be available following completion of recruitment in the ED department.

#### **W96Q3129: How many staff (WTE) are currently employed at SUH and how many staff were employed at the same time in 2020**

**Action:** A Cosgrove to revert to Cllr Bree with the information in a similar format to that provided to Cllr Brogan in response to his question W96Q3107

**W96Q3131: How many of those medical card holders in each county were prescribed (2) Anxiolytics (Valium, Xanax etc) and the total cost of same in 2019 and in 2020 (3) Antipsychotics and the total cost of same in 2019 and in 2020 Medical Card Queries on Prescribing Anti-depressants**

**Action:** National Medical Card Office to revert to Cllr Bree with how many medical card holders were prescribed Anxiolytics (Valium, Xanax etc) and antipsychotics and the total cost of same in 2019 and 2020.

**W96Q3137: MRI Operational Hours:**

**Action:** Ann Cosgrove to revert to Cllr Ó Cualáin with the extended hours of operation for MRIs.

**W96Q3140: Primary Care Centre for Spiddal**

**Action:** Joe Hoare to keep Cllr Ó Cualáin updated on the progress of a Primary Care Centre in Spiddal.

**W96Q3148: 9 month wait for children for initial Speech and Language Therapy assessment.**

**Action:** Breda Crehan-Roche to advise Cllr Carroll why this has moved from 3 month wait to a 9 month wait.

### **784/96/21 AOB:**

Ratification of 2022 Schedule of Meetings – Proposed by Cllr Donal Gilroy, seconded by Cllr Ciaran Brogan and approved.

### **785/96/21 Date & Time of Next Meeting:**

#### **Future Meetings:**

The next **Regional Health Forum Committee** Meeting will take place on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2021 at 1pm via Zoom (virtual meeting).

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

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> FEBRUARY 2022**

Number:	QUESTION	RAISED BY	Page No
<b>W97Q3149</b>	Services available to the public at the Kilrush Primary Care Centre	<b>Cllr C Murphy</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>W97Q3150</b>	To ask NAS if they would consider an extra ambulance crew to service the West Clare area.	<b>Cllr C Murphy</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>W97Q3151</b>	Has the HSE plans to extend their facilities at Drumshambo Health Centre in Co. Leitrim?	<b>Cllr F Armstrong McGuire</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>W97Q3152</b>	Could the HSE confirm the impact on paediatric care as a result of Covid at UHG and the current waiting times for paediatric and related outpatient appointments	<b>Cllr D Killilea</b>	<b>5 – 6</b>
<b>W97Q3153</b>	Confirmation of the number of permanent full time HSE Clinical Nurse Specialists there are in Adolescent Substance Use in the primary care centres in Galway city and county.	<b>Cllr D Killilea</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>W97Q3154</b>	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>Cllr D Killilea</b>	<b>6 – 7</b>
<b>W97Q3155</b>	Update on the current status of the proposed X Ray unit for Tuam?	<b>Cllr D Killilea</b>	<b>7 – 8</b>
<b>W97Q3156</b>	Update on Covid Vaccination schedule for 12–16-year-old children with regard to booster vaccination.	<b>Cllr E Francis Parsons</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>W97Q3157</b>	Update on the status of the Primary Medical Certificate Assessment Process for Drivers / Passengers with disability in the CHO2 area	<b>Cllr E Francis Parsons</b>	<b>8 – 9</b>
<b>W97Q3158</b>	Are any additional mental health supports being put in place specifically for youth sitting state examinations this year.	<b>Cllr E Francis Parsons</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>W97Q3159</b>	Update on the completion date for installation of the replacement CT scanner in Portiuncula University Hospital and update on the progression of the 50 bed unit.	<b>Cllr E Francis Parsons</b>	<b>9 – 10</b>
<b>W97Q3160</b>	Is the cost of taking a blood sample by a GP covered in all circumstances for medical card holders?	<b>Cllr M Kilcoyne</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>W97Q3161</b>	No of people in Mayo are on the waiting list for hip or knee replacements and the no waiting for < 1 year, >1 year and >2 years?	<b>Cllr M Kilcoyne</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>W97Q3162</b>	How many dentists in Co Mayo and in Co Galway provide services to people under the medical card scheme?	<b>Cllr M Kilcoyne</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>W97Q3163</b>	Does the Orpea Group own or operate any nursing homes in the Community Services HSE West?	<b>Cllr M Kilcoyne</b>	<b>10 – 11</b>
<b>W97Q3164</b>	Why does St. John's unit in The Sacred Heart Hospital Castlebar have no WIFI or TV available for patients/residents and why family are not permitted to provide a TV for their loved ones?	<b>Cllr M McLoughlin</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>W97Q3165</b>	HSE to provide necessary funding to reduce the waiting time for children with Spina Bifida and/or Hydrocephalus currently requiring urgent Orthopaedic intervention.	<b>Cllr T Ward</b>	<b>11 – 12</b>
<b>W97Q3166</b>	How many older people are on a waiting list for home help in South Roscommon and in Co. Roscommon.	<b>Cllr T Ward</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>W97Q3167</b>	Are the HSE finding it difficult to fill vacant consultant posts in the HSE Forum West area, Galway, Mayo and Roscommon.	<b>Cllr T Ward</b>	<b>12 – 13</b>

<b>W97Q3168</b>	Has the mental health services in County Roscommon a full complement of staff to cover all the services in County Roscommon?	<b>Cllr T Ward</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>W97Q3169</b>	What is the full list of services that will be available at the new Primary Health Centre in Donegal Town?	<b>Cllr T Conaghan</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>W97Q3170</b>	What services will work on a fulltime basis at the new Primary Health Centre in Donegal Town?	<b>Cllr T Conaghan</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>W97Q3171</b>	When is the official opening date of the Primary Health Centre, Drumlonagher, Donegal Town?	<b>Cllr T Conaghan</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>W97Q3172</b>	Will the HSE and Children's Health Ireland (CHI) adequately resource the Spina Bifida/Hydrocephalus (SBH) care services across all CHI sites	<b>Cllr A Doherty</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>W97Q3173</b>	What are the current plans for the restoration of Day Care services in Carndonagh?	<b>Cllr A Doherty</b>	<b>14 – 15</b>
<b>W97Q3174</b>	Riverwalk House Carndonagh (Respite provision) Has alternative residential accommodation been identified and secured for the service users	<b>Cllr A Doherty</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>W97Q3175</b>	Car - Parking at Letterkenny University Hospital & Camera provision.	<b>Cllr A Doherty</b>	<b>15 – 16</b>
<b>W97Q3176</b>	What is the full complement (WTE) of nurses required to staff the A&E SUH?	<b>Cllr D Bree</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>W97Q3177</b>	How many staff (WTE) are currently employed at Sligo University Hospital and how many staff were employed at the same time in 2021?	<b>Cllr D Bree</b>	<b>16 – 17</b>
<b>W97Q3178</b>	Has the funding been approved to allow the HSE to proceed to seek tenders for the construction of the 42 bed Medical Block at SUH?	<b>Cllr D Bree</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>W97Q3179</b>	What is the recommended number (WTE) of nurse specialist posts in neurology in University Hospital Sligo?	<b>Cllr D Bree</b>	<b>17 – 18</b>
<b>W97Q3180</b>	Update on discussions/developments on the provision of a Primary Health Care Centre in Oranmore.	<b>Cllr L Carroll</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>W97Q3181</b>	Could I be informed of the number of children and adults on waiting lists for orthopaedic assessment and treatment?	<b>Cllr L Carroll</b>	<b>18 – 19</b>
<b>W97Q3182</b>	When will a Full Time Podiatrist return to the Post at Letterkenny University Hospital?	<b>Cllr G McMonagle</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>W97Q3183</b>	How many Adult Endocrinologists are now in situ at LUH? No of diabetic patients currently awaiting review appointments	<b>Cllr G McMonagle</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>W97Q3184</b>	The numbers of young people in Donegal who are currently awaiting appointments with CAMHS?	<b>Cllr G McMonagle</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>W97Q3185</b>	When will the Respite Centres for Children and Families dealing with Autism located in Ballybofey and Carndonagh reopen?	<b>Cllr G McMonagle</b>	<b>20-21</b>
<b>W97Q3186</b>	What is the average time it takes to conclude a medical card application?	<b>Cllr G Crawford</b>	<b>21-22</b>
<b>W97Q3187</b>	What supports are available to assist Voluntary and Community groups in the area of Mental Health	<b>Cllr G Crawford</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>W97Q3188</b>	Re. UHLKY. What percentage of Consultant to patient consultations was it possible to carry out by phone years ended Dec 2020 and Dec 2021.	<b>Cllr G Crawford</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>W97Q3189</b>	Does the N.A.S feel that its recruitment-training program under its various headings will meet its targets in year 2022.	<b>Cllr G Crawford</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>W97Q3190</b>	An updated report on the services being provided by CAMHS, child and adolescent mental health services based in Letterkenny, for Inishowen, north central and north west Donegal?	<b>Cllr C Brogan</b>	<b>22-23</b>
<b>W97Q3191</b>	An updated report on the commissioning of radiology intervention suite and the second CT scanner at LUH?	<b>Cllr C Brogan</b>	<b>23</b>



<b>W97Q3192</b>	An updated report on all services at LUH being fully operational, inpatient, outpatient, day surgery, Endoscopy, oncology, breast, haematology, fractures, orthopaedics?	<b>Cllr C Brogan</b>	<b>23-24</b>
<b>W97Q3193</b>	An updated report on the current recruitment of the Cancer Service positions and the provision of Cancer Services at LUH?	<b>Cllr C Brogan</b>	<b>24-25</b>
<b>W97Q3194</b>	What is total number of active cases recorded for the number of Patients availing of CAMHS services in County Galway?	<b>Cllr J Connolly</b>	<b>25-26</b>
<b>W97Q3195</b>	Following screening of referrals made to CAMHS Galway in 2019, 2020 and in 2021, what number of referrals were considered routine and what was the average waiting time experienced by such patients awaiting an initial appointment?	<b>Cllr J Connolly</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>W97Q3196</b>	How many children within the Health Forum area are in receipt of treatment for Juvenile idiopathic scoliosis?	<b>Cllr J Connolly</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>W97Q3197</b>	The number of patients on each of the categories of inpatient and day-case waiting lists at Galway University Hospitals?	<b>Cllr J Connolly</b>	<b>26-28</b>
<b>W97Q3198</b>	Update in relation to where the commencement of weekend Pharmacy services in GUH currently?	<b>Cllr D Ó Cualáin</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>W97Q3199</b>	Report on the number of calls received and dealt with by the Westdoc out of hours G.P service in 2020 and 2021.	<b>Cllr D Ó Cualáin</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>W97Q3200</b>	A breakdown on the areas within County Galway that currently have vacant G.P positions or are being covered by locum G.P's?	<b>Cllr D Ó Cualáin</b>	<b>28-29</b>
<b>W97Q3201</b>	A breakdown by practice area on how much the HSE has spent to date on locum G.P services in the various areas in County Galway to provide G.P Services.	<b>Cllr D Ó Cualáin</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>W97Q3202</b>	Details of the most recent average, longest and shortest waiting time from arrival to departure/admission at SUH A+E.	<b>Cllr D Gilroy</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>W97Q3203</b>	An update on procedures to pay Student Nurses the €100 per week promised During the Covid 19 Pandemic.	<b>Cllr D Gilroy</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>W97Q3204</b>	Ask if training in how best to highlight incidents of assault against service users in the Intellectual disability services and if staff are asked by managers within the service to use certain terms in their reports.	<b>Cllr D Gilroy</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>W97Q3205</b>	Update on the provision of social services for older people at the centres in Cliffoney and Carrigans.	<b>Cllr D Gilroy</b>	<b>32</b>

## QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES RECEIVED

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

Number:	QUESTION	RAISED BY
<b>W97Q3149</b>	Can I be provided with a detailed list of all the services available to the public at the Kilrush Primary Care Centre?	<b>Cllr C Murphy</b>
<p>The range of Primary Care Services that are currently provided at Kilrush Primary Care Centre include: Public Health Nursing; Podiatry; Dental; Orthodontics; Speech &amp; Language Therapy; Occupational Therapy; Physiotherapy; Civil Registration (Births, Deaths &amp; Marriages); Audiology and Tusla. Services such as Paediatric Occupational Therapy, Psychology, Counselling and Diabetic Retinopathy also operate from the Primary Care Centre on a sessional basis.</p> <p>The Public Health Nursing services provide domiciliary care to new mothers and babies in the local area.</p> <p>The PHN Service at Kilrush Primary Care Centre provide domiciliary care to all age groups (0-4, 18-64 and 65+ years). They provide a holistic assessment of clients and referral to other members of the Multidisciplinary team as required. They provide clinical nursing care to clients and also end of life care working closely with the General Practitioner and Multidisciplinary team.</p> <p>A number of nursing clinics operate from the Primary Care Centre including the following: Breastfeeding Support, Leg Ulcers (twice weekly), Doppler Clinics, Child Developmental, Immunisation Clinics, School Health Screening Clinics, Incontinence Assessment and Wound Management.</p> <p>The Occupational Therapy Services Adult Service carry out domiciliary assessments and interventions for clients of the Kilrush and Kilkee Primary Care Teams. Clients are visited and assessed in their own homes. Some assessment/intervention may be carried out with clients on site in Kilrush Primary Care Centre when appropriate.</p> <p>The Primary Care Paediatric Occupational Therapy Services have clinics in the Kilrush Primary Care Centre. They carry out assessments and intervention with children who have mild functional difficulties. School visits may also be arranged when required.</p> <p>The HSE have arranged an on-site visit to the Kilrush Primary Care Centre for Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2022. Local political representatives will be invited to attend along with HSE representatives. The purpose of this site visit is to review the existing Primary Care Centre and the services delivered to the population of Kilrush and surrounding areas.</p> <p>The total staff complement at the Primary Care Centre is 20 WTE approx.</p> <p><b>Maria Bridgeman, Chief Officer, HSE Mid West Community Healthcare</b></p>		
<b>W97Q3150</b>	Due to long turnaround times at A&E, the extra distances being covered by the existing crew and the length of time west Clare is left without appropriate cover, to ask the NAS if they would consider the addition of an extra ambulance crew to service the West Clare area.	<b>Cllr C Murphy</b>
<p>National Ambulance Service have ambulance bases in Kilrush and Ennistymon in West Clare. National Ambulance Service deploy ambulances using the AMPDS system which is a triage system that deploys the nearest ambulances to an incident.</p> <p>NAS has commissioned a Capacity Review Report which will detail service requirements. This report is due for completion end of Q1 2022. The details of this report will be shared with the Regional Health forum and further decisions in relation to additional resources will be based on this report.</p> <p><b>John Joe McGowan, Interim Chief Ambulance Officer, Operations, West</b></p>		

<b>W97Q3151</b>	To ask the HSE if they have plans to extend their facilities at Drumshanbo Health Centre in Co. Leitrim. Does the HSE recognise that their current centre does not adequately cater for all health related activities there and is consideration being given to a building extension to provide for services.	<b>Cllr F Armstrong McGuire</b>
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The HSE has recently re-organised some Services provided at Drumshanbo Health Centre. Consequently, it has been possible to free up some clinic space, which has been allocated to an existing Service in the Centre. The space allocated is currently being prepared for use by that Service and should be ready in early March. The HSE will be keeping this matter under review.

The following Services are currently based in the Drumshanbo Health Centre;

- Public Health Nursing
- General Practitioner
- Audiology
- Speech and Language
- Psychology
- Cognitive Behaviour Therapist
- Diabetic Eye Screening

The Psychiatry Service is currently not based in the Drumshanbo Health Centre, due to insufficient office space.

The Dietetics Service has moved from the Drumshanbo Health Centre to the new Health Centre in Carrick on Shannon.

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

<b>W97Q3152</b>	Could the HSE confirm the impact on paediatric care as a result of Covid at UHG. What is the current waiting times for paediatric and related outpatient appointments compared to what they were pre-Covid. Is there any other route for paediatric care other than at UHG.	<b>Cllr D Killilea</b>
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There has been little impact on inpatient care due to COVID-19 in paediatric medicine as there has been bed availability. The main impact has been on outpatient (OPD) care:

1. An unprecedented level of paediatric ED attendance late in 2021 and in January 2022 resulted in high numbers requiring follow-up outpatient appointments. These follow up appointments are required within short time frames resulting in the wait list remaining static or increasing.
2. There were also increased OPD GP referrals and this put an added demand on OPD services with minimal ability to scale up due to space constraints. The recent COVID-19 surge affected the number of HSCP and nursing staff available which also impacted on the level of services that could be delivered.

#### Waiting Times Pre-Covid (January 2020)

Specialty	Paediatrics									
Count of hospital name	Column Labels									
Row Labels	0-3 Months	3-6 Months	6-9 Months	9-12 Months	12-15 Months	15-18 Months	18-21 Months	21-24 Months	24-36 Months	Grand Total
Has Appointment Date	204	53	9	3	1		1	2	1	274
No Appointment Date	408	256	120	40	16	11	20	23	11	905
Grand Total	612	309	129	43	17	11	21	25	12	1179



## Current Waiting Times (February 2022)

Specialty	Paediatrics											
Count of hospital name	Column Labels											
Row Labels	0-3 Months	3-6 Months	6-9 Months	9-12 Months	12-15 Months	15-18 Months	18-21 Months	21-24 Months	24-36 Months	36-48 Months	48+ Months	Grand Total
Has Appointment Date	133	61	19	36	9	6	8	6	14		2	294
No Appointment Date	505	376	246	157	74	36	23	30	35	4	1	1487
Grand Total	638	437	265	193	83	42	31	36	49	4	3	1781

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

<b>W97Q3153</b>	Could the HSE confirm the number of permanent full time HSE Clinical Nurse Specialists there are in Adolescent Substance Use in the primary care centres in Galway city and county. Are there plans to enhance this section.	<b>Clr D Killilea</b>
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There is currently one CNS in Adolescent Substance Use for Galway City and County.

Funding to expand this service, will be sought based upon the number of adolescents referred to the CHW Drugs Service.

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

<b>W97Q3154</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>
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#### 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 covering the Galway city/county area:

- 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 9 agency nurses working in PHN areas plus 5 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.

\*covers a wider geographical area to GR5 community. Case load figures relate to GR5 Community General Adult Team caseloads.

**GR1 - Connemara – City West**

**GR2 – Galway City**

**GR3 - Headford – Galway City East –Gort**

**GR4 – Tuam – Loughrea**

**GR5 – Ballinasloe – Portunma**

**POLL1 – Psychiatry of Later Life – West Galway**

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

<b>W97Q3155</b>	Could the HSE confirm the current status of the proposed X Ray unit for Tuam. What is the investment going to be and when will it be operational.	<b>Clr D Killilea</b>
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Tuam Diagnostic Service is being developed in conjunction with Portiuncula University Hospital Ballinasloe, the Saolta Group, Primary Care Services Community Healthcare West and HSE Capital & Estates.

### X Ray Service

In Q4 2021 the final design scheme plans of the alterations required to the building were submitted by HSE Capital & Estates to the PPP Company in relation to development of the Radiology Diagnostics suite in Tuam Primary Care Centre.

PPP Co. have subsequently commenced the preparation of tender documentation for the works arising. It is expected that these works will be tendered in the near future. Following tender analysis and review of all relevant associated costs arising the PPP company will then revert to HSE Capital & Estates with the proposed costs. Subject to agreement on costs and the required approvals, it is hoped that works could commence in Q3 2022 and be completed before the end of Q1 2023.

#### **Ultrasound Service**

The GP direct access Ultrasound service which commenced on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021 was impacted by the cyber-attack. Since December 2021 the Ultrasound service was increased to a three day week service. GP in surrounding PCT areas can refer directly for Ultrasound services.

#### **Investment:**

National Primary Care has invested in staff, equipment and capital funding for the development of a Diagnostic Unit in Tuam PCC. Currently Ultrasound is delivered by an Ultra sonographer, a healthcare assistant and the service has admin support. A CS Radiographer is to be recruited for the delivery of X Ray.

***Breda Crehan-Roche, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare West/ Joe Hoare, Assistant National Director, Capital & Estates West***

<b>W97Q3156</b>	Please provide update on Covid Vaccination schedule for 12–16-year-old children with regard to booster vaccination.	<b>Cllr E Francis Parsons</b>
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The policy regarding the roll out of the booster doses of COVID-19 vaccine is determined by National Immunisation Advisory Council (NIAC) and the Department of Health.

As of the 7<sup>th</sup> February 2022, the below are the only cohorts that NIAC have recommended a booster dose in order of priority for:

- Those aged 80 years and older, and those aged 65 in Long Term Care Facilities
- Those aged 60-79 years
- Healthcare workers, including those pregnant (priority for frontline HCWs)
- Those aged 16-59 years with underlying conditions as listed in Table 5a.2 of Chapter 5a COVID-19 in the Immunisation Guidelines for Ireland and all residents in long term healthcare facilities
- Those aged 50-59 years
- all pregnant women aged 16 years and older
- all those aged 40 - 49 years who received any COVID-19 vaccine including COVID-19 vaccine Janssen
- Those aged 16 - 39 years, who received an mRNA vaccine in descending order by age cohort; 30 - 39 years, 20 - 29 years and 16 -19 years
- Those aged 16 - 29 years who received COVID-19 vaccine Janssen can be offered a booster vaccine in parallel with those aged 30 - 39 years.

As of 6th February 2022, ca. 50k booster doses have been administered to those aged 16-17. However, please note that NIAC have not yet recommended booster vaccines for the 12-15 year old age group. Once the guidance has been received the HSE will include this age group in our operational plans.

**Damien McCallion, National Director, National Lead Test & Trace and Vaccination Programme**

<b>W97Q3157</b>	Please provide an update on the status of the Primary Medical Certificate Assessment Process for Drivers / Passengers with disability in the CHO2 area and the numbers awaiting assessment and the numbers assessed awaiting decision. What process of appeal is now in place for applicants in the system following the mass resignation of the Disabled Drivers Medical Board of Appeal in January 2022 reportedly on the basis that the criteria were considered too stringent. Is it now the case that PMC assessments have	<b>Cllr E Francis Parsons</b>
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	been stood down yet again. Are new criteria are being devised or is there a plan going forward?	
<p>The waiting list from receipt of application to assessment is maximum 6 weeks across all counties in CHO2 and is an appointment is often allocated sooner than that. There are roughly another 20 waiting medical assessment across the 3 counties. Many of these have been offered an appointment but were unable to attend in the last 6 weeks.</p> <p>There are 5 in total between Mayo, Galway, Roscommon as of 9<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2022 who have been seen by a Community Medical Doctor but are awaiting approval, as the medical assessment report has not been returned for sign off or the doctor is awaiting further information from the applicant.</p> <p>The Senior Medical Officers in the Community Medical Department assess applicants for the Primary Medical Cert on behalf of the Dept of Finance &amp; Revenue Commissioners. We have no role in the provision of appeals which under the legislation must be independent of the HSE.</p> <p>The DDMBA report to the Minister for Finance &amp; appeals are under his remit.</p> <p>PMC assessments continue to be processed.</p> <p>We understand there is National review of the Disabled Drivers Scheme to examine the current 'fitness for purpose' of the scheme.</p> <p>One of the primary objective of this review is to develop proposals for eligibility and any other related parameters, that align the Scheme to ensure it meets the needs and enables people with disabilities to fully participate.</p> <p>While this review is ongoing the existing criteria in the amended Finance Act 2020 are still in place.</p> <p><b>Breda Crehan-Roche, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare West</b></p>		
<b>W97Q3158</b>	Are any additional mental health supports being put in place specifically for youth sitting state examinations this year. Figures reveal that 67% wanted to have a hybrid Leaving Cert option available. The prolonged uncertainty, the late and only recent decision to have them sit a traditional LC/ JC has caused undue stress and mental health issues. What if any specific and targeted supports are being provided to these young students?	<b>Clr E Francis Parsons</b>
Not available at time of printing.		
<b>W97Q3159</b>	Please provide an update on the completion date for installation of the replacement CT scanner in Portiuncula University Hospital and update on the progression of the 50 bed unit.	<b>Clr E Francis Parsons</b>
<p><b>CT Scanner</b></p> <p>Building works are at an advanced stage to accommodate the replacement CT scanner with construction of the undercroft works, link corridor and also an IT core room ongoing. The replacement CT has been ordered and is due for delivery around the end of June 2022. It is anticipated that the new CT will then be installed, commissioned and ready for operational use by the end of July 2022 or thereabouts. A temporary CT scanner is also now on-site and is currently being commissioned.</p> <p><b>50 Bedded Replacement Ward Block</b></p> <p>The enabling works for the new 50 bed block at Portiuncula University Hospital were completed on site in late 2021. These works included works in respect of campus electrical infrastructure, medical gas compound, natural gas supply, roadworks and diversion of soils, storm and water services. The tender process for the main works, namely the construction of the new ward block has also been completed. HSE Board approval is also now in place for the award of a works contract for the ward block. It is anticipated that the works contract will be awarded in the coming weeks and that works will be underway in April 2022. These works would then likely take up to 23 months</p>		



to fully complete.

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

<b>W97Q3160</b>	Is the cost of taking a blood sample by a GP covered in all circumstances for medical card holders? If not in what circumstances is it not covered? If a GP charges a medical card holder for taking blood in circumstances where the cost of same is covered by the medical card, what action does the HSE propose to take on the matter?	<b>Cllr M Kilcoyne</b>
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Under the terms of the GMS Contract, GPs are required to provide eligible patients with “*all proper and necessary treatment of a kind usually undertaken by a General Practitioner and not requiring special skill or experience of a degree or kind which General Practitioners cannot reasonably be expected to possess*”. Where the practice based phlebotomy service forms part of the investigation and necessary treatment of a patient’s symptoms or conditions by the patient’s GP, the service should be provided free of charge where the patient is a Medical Card or GP Visit Card holder.

However in circumstances where GPs, in the exercise of their clinical judgement, determine that a particular treatment or service requested by an eligible patient is not clinically necessary, but the patient still requests to receive same, it is at the GPs discretion as to whether they impose a charge for providing the service/treatment in question. This includes the taking of blood which, in the opinion of the GP, is not clinically necessary e.g. for screening purposes.

If a patient feels that they have been wrongly charged for the taking of blood, they can submit the relevant receipt to the HSE at local level and request that the matter be investigated. If following an examination of the matter, in conjunction with the relevant GP, the HSE at local level is satisfied that the charge was incorrectly imposed, the Primary Care Re-Imbursement Service (PCRS) section of the HSE is requested to make a refund to the patient from monies owing to the GP.

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

<b>W97Q3161</b>	How many people in Mayo are on the waiting list for hip or knee replacements and the number waiting for less than 1 year, more than 1 year and more than 2 years?	<b>Cllr M Kilcoyne</b>
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Please see information below in relation to patients waiting for hip/knee replacements.

	<b>&lt; 1 Year</b>	<b>1-2 Years</b>	<b>&gt; 2 Years</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>
Total arthroplasty of hip unilateral	60	9	18	87
Total arthroplasty of knee unilateral	28	7	20	55
Revision of total arthroplasty of hip	4	3	7	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>156</b>

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

<b>W97Q3162</b>	How many dentists in County Mayo and in County Galway provide services to people under the medical card scheme?	<b>Cllr M Kilcoyne</b>
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There are **20** registered contractors for **Mayo** and **30** registered contractors for **Galway**.

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

<b>W97Q3163</b>	Does the Orpea Group own or operate any nursing homes in the Community Services HSE West area of responsibility? Do they operate or provide any home care in the Community Services HSE West area?	<b>Cllr M Kilcoyne</b>
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Community healthcare west have no governance over private nursing homes and as such we are not provided with the names of businesses who operate them.

With regard to homecare, we are not aware of any homecare agency affiliated with this group.

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

The HSE neither owns nor operates private nursing homes and therefore cannot comment on this matter.

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

<b>W97Q3164</b>	To ask the HSE why at St. John's unit in The Sacred Heart Hospital Castlebar there is no WIFI or TV available for patients/residents and why family are not permitted to provide a TV for their loved ones on the grounds of Covid and Fire Safety Policy. To further ask why family are not permitted to visit loved ones in the unit save for a pre booked visit to the window. When will this situation be resolved and when will patients/residents be provided with access to WIFI and TV and visitors be allowed into the unit.	<b>Cllr M McLoughlin</b>
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**St John's Ward**

There is WiFi available and we are currently progressing so that patients can get access as part of a national rollout of WiFi access for all patients in acute hospitals.

TVs have been installed in St John's Ward and further TVs are ordered and we are progressing this.

The national guidance in relation to access for visitors at acute hospitals is being implemented across all Saolta hospitals including St John's Ward. Visiting is currently by appointment.

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

<b>W97Q3165</b>	I am calling on the HSE to provide necessary funding to reduce the waiting time for children with Spina Bifida and/or Hydrocephalus currently requiring urgent Orthopaedic intervention. I am also calling on the HSE to ensure that the provision of services is made to Disabled Children within elective Hospital setting as well as acute Hospital setting to avoid a repeat of this situation in the future	<b>Cllr T Ward</b>
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Children's Health Ireland (CHI) is absolutely committed to providing timely and increased access to our services which is the single greatest operational challenge we have. Unfortunately, we are operating within old and constrained infrastructure, with limited capability and all our hospitals experienced record numbers of presentations to our Emergency Departments & Urgent Care Centres this winter, resulting in bed pressures and cancellation of admissions for elective surgery. We sincerely apologise to all those families and children waiting for care, including those children with Spina Bifida awaiting their surgery.

In 2020 and 2021 our elective activity was significantly reduced (18% less orthopaedic admissions in CHI in 2020 and 2021 than in 2019) due to the impact of COVID-19 and the criminal cyberattack. Our Spina Bifida service at CHI at Temple Street has recently doubled the capacity of Spina Bifida multi-disciplinary OPD clinics from monthly to fortnightly. This service aims to provide each child with an annual review and through these additional OPD clinics CHI expects to reduce the waiting time for follow up outpatient appointments. The OPD clinics take place with full multidisciplinary clinical involvement including: Neurodisability, Neurosurgery, Orthopaedics, Urology, Physiotherapy, Neuropsychology, Occupational therapy, Medical Social worker, and Clinical Nurse Specialist.

CHI have received confirmation from the HSE on the allocation of some funding requested for 2022 to address waiting lists across all specialities. This funding includes new revenue recurring funding of €4m and just under €1m of non-recurring funding to improve access by children to treatments. Capital funding already allocated to develop a 5th theatre in CHI at Temple Street, 2 MRIs and additional beds will support an increase in orthopaedic activity in both CHI at Crumlin and CHI at Temple Street.

CHI have a plan to improve access to Orthopaedic services, including wait times for Spina Bifida and Scoliosis surgeries. It will be shared with advocacy groups and relevant internal staff in the forthcoming weeks.

CHI is confident with this welcome investment that we can make a difference to children requiring access to CHI for orthopaedic care and other specialties, it is our core objective and we will advocate with parents to ensure this happens. All long waits on our waiting lists have a plan in 2022 and CHI is committed to reducing long waiting times.

Our Clinical staff, management and all CHI staff empathise with these families as we understand that behind every number on our waiting list is a child and a child that needs care and treatment. We will continue to update our families and advocacy groups to keep them informed and engaged in our efforts to make a difference in 2022 to recover from the backlog caused by events in 2020 and 2021 to unacceptable waiting times children and adolescents endure to get the treatment and care they need.

#### **Children's Health Ireland (CHI)**

<b>W97Q3166</b>	Can the HSE inform the members of this forum how many older people are on a waiting list for home help in South Roscommon and in County Roscommon.	<b>Cllr T Ward</b>
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The data for County Roscommon is as follows:

Number of clients in County Roscommon awaiting a new service: 34

Number of clients in County Roscommon awaiting additional services: 93

The data for South Roscommon is as follows:

Number of clients in South Roscommon awaiting a new service: 19

Number of clients in South Roscommon awaiting additional service: 49

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

<b>W97Q3167</b>	Can the HSE inform the members of this forum if the HSE are finding it difficult to fill vacant consultant posts in the HSE Forum West area, Galway, Mayo and Roscommon.	<b>Cllr T Ward</b>
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There are some difficulties in recruiting certain consultant posts in specific areas across the Saolta Group, particularly in the model 2 and model 3 hospitals for example, elderly medicine, obstetrics and gynaecology.

#### **Roscommon University Hospital:**

There are posts filled on a locum basis in a number of specialties while we follow the recruitment processes to fill these posts.

#### **Portlincula University Hospital:**

As a level 3 hospital, Portlincula has ongoing challenges in recruiting consultants. There is also a short supply of consultants in a number of specialties.

#### **Mayo University Hospital:**

There are difficulties in some areas in Consultant recruitment within the medical speciality where we have a number of vacancies for both acute hospital and integrated care and we also have a difficulty in recruitment in Obstetric Services (Obstetrics and Gynaecology). There are campaigns running for all these and unfortunately some of the campaigns have been unsuccessful, requiring re-advertisement.

In recent times we have had vacancies in new positions approved in anaesthetics, radiology where there has been no difficulty in filling those, the same with emergency medicine. We have a number of candidates that are interested in positions for our emergency services. We have also had recent vacancies in surgery which we have managed to fill.

**Galway University Hospitals:**

In general, recruitment into Consultant posts in Galway University Hospital is very competitive and there are usually a number of applicants for most posts.

In situations where new, replacement and permanent posts are being progressed, we endeavour to fill these post with permanent post-holders who are on the Specialist Register within their fields of the Irish Medical Council.

However, there are a very small number of highly-specialised Consultant posts which are filled from a much smaller pool of applicants. We have been proactive in filling these posts by identifying Specialist Registrars in their final year of training and supporting them in their further training in specialised fields overseas. This has proven to be a successful strategy in recruiting highly qualified Consultants into these very specialist areas.

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

<b>W97Q3168</b>	Can the HSE inform the meeting if the mental health services in County Roscommon have full complement of staff to cover all the services in County Roscommon?	<b>Cllr T Ward</b>
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There is currently a staffing complement of 181.54 Whole Time Equivalents (WTE) in Roscommon Mental Health Services. There are currently 21 WTE vacancies. This service makes every effort to fill temporary vacancies through the use of cross cover, locum cover and approved overtime.

We are currently in the process of recruiting to these positions.

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

<b>W97Q3169</b>	What is the full list of services that will be available at the new Primary Health Centre in Donegal Town?	<b>Cllr T Conaghan</b>
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The services that will be provided at Donegal Town Primary Care Centre are as follows;

- Enhanced Community Care Services including;
  - Clinical Nursing
  - Physiotherapy
  - Occupational Therapy
  - Dietetics
  - Podiatry
  - Adult Social Work
  - Speech & Language Therapy
  - Orthotics,
  - Psychology
  - Dental
  - Medical Officers
- Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs)
- Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)
- National Ambulance Service (NAS)
- TUSLA (Child and Family Agency)
- GP Services

**Dermot Monaghan, A/Chief Officer, CH01**



<b>W97Q3170</b>	What services will work on a fulltime basis at the new Primary Health Centre in Donegal Town?	<b>Cllr T Conaghan</b>
<p>It is envisaged that the GP Medical Practice, along with some staff from HSE Primary Care, Disability, Mental Health Services, Tusla and National Ambulance Service (NAS) will operate on a full-time basis out of the new Primary Care Centre. Visiting clinicians and specialists from these services will also attend the centre on a routine basis for clinics, multi-disciplinary team meetings and appointments.</p> <p>As with all Primary Care Centres, the centre will support the delivery of integrated care for the people in its catchment area by facilitating closer coordination and cooperation between health professionals from across different disciplines and services in a high quality modern facility. It will provide a single point of access to services for the people of Donegal Town and surrounding area and create a focal point for local health initiatives.</p> <p><b>Dermot Monaghan, A/Chief Officer, CHO1</b></p>		
<b>W97Q3171</b>	When is the official opening date of the Primary Health Centre, Drumlonagher, Donegal Town?	<b>Cllr T Conaghan</b>
<p>The proposed commencement date for receiving patients at the new Donegal Town Primary Care Centre is the 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022. There has been a delay in services being fully operational at the centre due to hold-ups in the delivery of materials and equipment necessary for the safe operation of services.</p> <p><b>Dermot Monaghan, A/Chief Officer, CHO1</b></p>		
<b>W97Q3172</b>	Will the HSE and Children's Health Ireland (CHI) adequately resource the Spina Bifida/Hydrocephalus (SBH) care services across all CHI sites and ensure the world recognised minimum standard of care for all SBH children is accessible and provided to all children in Ireland ? i.e: "That the children be seen once per year in a Multi-Disciplinary Team Clinic at a Paediatric Hospital?	<b>Cllr A Doherty</b>
<p>The Children's Health Ireland (CHI) Spina Bifida service at CHI at Temple Street has recently doubled the capacity of Spina Bifida multi-disciplinary OPD clinics from monthly to fortnightly OPD clinic. The service aims to provide each child with an annual review and through these additional clinics we expect to reduce the waiting time for follow up outpatient appointments. The clinics take place with a full multidisciplinary clinical involvement including: Neurodisability, Neurosurgery, Orthopaedics, Urology, Occupational therapy, Physiotherapy, Neuropsychology, Medical Social worker, and Clinical Nurse Specialist.</p> <p>CHI have received confirmation from the HSE on the allocation of funding requested for 2022. The funding includes new revenue recurring funding of €4m and just under €1m of non-recurring funding to improve access to treatments. Capital funding already allocated to develop a 5th theatre in CHI at Temple Street, 2 MRIs and additional beds will support an increase in orthopaedic activity in both CHI at Crumlin and CHI at Temple Street.</p> <p>CHI have a plan to improve access to Orthopaedic services, including wait times for Spina Bifida and Scoliosis surgeries. It will be shared with advocacy groups and relevant internal staff in the forthcoming weeks.</p> <p>CHI is confident with this welcome investment that we can make a difference to children requiring access to CHI for orthopaedic care and other specialties, it is our core objective and we will advocate with parents to ensure this happens. All long waits on our waiting lists have a plan in 2022 and CHI is committed to reducing long waiting times.</p> <p><b>Children's Health Ireland (CHI)</b></p>		
<b>W97Q3173</b>	What are the current plans for the restoration of Day Care services in Carndonagh and will HSE property management report on their efforts and tasks undertaken to date for the restoration of Day Care Services in Carndonagh?	<b>Cllr A Doherty</b>
<p>Carndonagh Day Hospital has been deemed as no longer suitable for use as a day hospital by the HSE's Infection</p>		

and Prevention Control team and we are therefore seeking alternative accommodation in the Carndonagh area for the provision of day services to clients of Older Persons Services (OPS).

Currently there are no vacant, nor suitable premises in the area of Carndonagh town; however, there are two days available in the Clonmany High Support Unit Day Centre (CHSU) on Tuesdays and Thursdays to accommodate OPS day service clients from the Carndonagh area. A Clinical Nurse Manager and a Multi-Task Attendant will be made available to run these two days until such time as a suitable premises is located in Carndonagh. The proposed start date for day services at the CHSU is 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

In the meantime, clients and their families can apply for alternative support services, subject to availability, including the following:

- Increased Home Support
- Home Respite
- Day Care at Home
- Respite in the local Hospital

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

<b>W97Q3174</b>	Riverwalk House Carndonagh (Respite provision) Has alternative residential accommodation been identified and secured for the service users who have been provided with emergency full time respite at Riverwalk House. What progress has occurred securing additional respite support for service users and their families? (Donegal Disability Services priority)	<b>Cllr A Doherty</b>
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Accommodation has been secured for one resident in Riverwalk House and works have commenced to bring the accommodation up to the required standards. The aim is for this resident to move to the new home at the end Q2, 2022. A second accommodation is being reviewed by HSE Estates and a business plan for the required resources has been approved. On completion, this will facilitate the reopening of Riverwalk House for respite for other service users and their families in the Inishowen area.

Ballymacool Respite House is being used as the alternative location for priority respite requests for clients of Intellectual Disability Services, Inishowen. Additional home support packages are also available to families who require support, and these are reviewed and enhanced as required.

Donegal Disability Services acknowledges the impact on service users and their families in Inishowen and are fully committed to restoring respite services at Riverwalk as soon as possible.

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

<b>W97Q3175</b>	Car-Parking at Letterkenny University Hospital & Camera provision. A number of constituents have reported some damage to parked vehicles at LUH and of a lack of assistance from the car security firm who have stated that "Cameras were not functioning properly or at all. Will the HSE update on this situation and enable follow up for visitors or staff who have had vehicles damaged?	<b>Cllr A Doherty</b>
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There are over 1,100 car parks spaces on the Letterkenny University Hospital campus and the car parks are managed by a competent external company.

A significant number of car parks have CCTV cameras coverage but it is not possible to cover all car park spaces with CCTV.

We are constantly striving to improve our parking for staff and visitors and in late 2021 we upgraded the lighting in all our car parks and in Q1 2022 we plan to commence an upgrade of all our CCTV cameras. Our car parks are also patrolled regularly by our Hospital Security and all reported incidents are recorded.

As with other public car parks, cars are parked at the owner's risk.

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

W97Q3176	What is the full complement (WTE) of nurses required to staff the Accident & Emergency Department in Sligo University Hospital; How many nursing staff were employed in the Department on 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2020; on 1 <sup>st</sup> February 2021; on 1 <sup>st</sup> May 2021; on 1st July 2021; on 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2021; on 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2021; on 1 <sup>st</sup> February 2022. How many nursing posts were vacant in the Department in each of the above months.	Cllr D Bree																								
	<table><tr><td></td><td>1st Nov 2020</td><td>1st Feb 2021</td><td>1st May 2021</td><td>1st July 2021</td><td>1st Sept 2021</td><td>1st Nov 2021</td><td>1st Feb 2022</td></tr><tr><td>Nursing WTE SUH Emergency Dept</td><td>41.7</td><td>45.36</td><td>45.5</td><td>45.2</td><td>46.01</td><td>52.9</td><td>63.54</td></tr><tr><td>Vacant Nursing WTE ED</td><td>9.5</td><td>6</td><td>9</td><td>8</td><td>10</td><td>7</td><td>3</td></tr></table>		1st Nov 2020	1st Feb 2021	1st May 2021	1st July 2021	1st Sept 2021	1st Nov 2021	1st Feb 2022	Nursing WTE SUH Emergency Dept	41.7	45.36	45.5	45.2	46.01	52.9	63.54	Vacant Nursing WTE ED	9.5	6	9	8	10	7	3	
	1st Nov 2020	1st Feb 2021	1st May 2021	1st July 2021	1st Sept 2021	1st Nov 2021	1st Feb 2022																			
Nursing WTE SUH Emergency Dept	41.7	45.36	45.5	45.2	46.01	52.9	63.54																			
Vacant Nursing WTE ED	9.5	6	9	8	10	7	3																			

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

<b>W97Q3177</b>	How many staff (WTE) are currently employed at Sligo University Hospital and how many staff were employed at the same time in 2021? Please list by occupation and how many are permanent, temporary, agency. How many staff vacancies are there currently in the hospital? Please list by occupation.	<b>Cllr D Bree</b>
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**Sligo University Hospital WTE/Headcount Feb 2022 and Feb 2021**

Staff Category	WTE 1st Feb 2022			WTE 1st Feb 2021		
	Perm (Headcount)	Temp (Headcount)	Agency ***	Perm (Headcount)	Temp (Headcount)	Agency ***
General Support	186	60		192	55	
Health & Social Care Professionals	207	35	1.21	171	40	0.06
Management/ Admin	240	53		223	46	
Medical/ Dental	72	187	10.2	71	180	10.01
Nursing/ Midwifery	846	56	5.24	741	91	12.72
Patient & Client Care	171	19	39.76	154	19	28.56
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1722</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>56.41</b>	<b>1552</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>51.35</b>

WTE= Whole-Time Equivalent

\*\*\*Agency resources are currently filling Healthcare Assistant posts across the hospital and some nursing vacancies although there is limited supply of agency nursing resources.

**SUH Vacant Posts in Recruitment (wte) at Feb 1st 2022**

Staff Category	SUH Posts Recruited 1st Jan 2021 to 1st Feb 2022	<u>Vacancies</u> in Recruitment at 1st February 2022 (wte) *
General Support	39	30

<b>Health &amp; Social Care Professionals</b>	94	52
<b>Management/ Admin</b>	85	34
<b>Medical/ Dental</b>	202	19
<b>Nursing/ Midwifery</b>	299	80
<b>Patient &amp; Client Care</b>	33	11
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>752</b>	<b>226</b>

\*Currently the hospital has 226 posts at different stages of recruitment process, of which we have 89 posts accepted/in contracting process; 32 posts expressed to existing panels and further 53 scheduled for interview

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

<b>W97Q3178</b>	Has the funding been approved to allow the HSE to proceed to seek tenders for the construction of the 42 bed Medical Block at Sligo University Hospital? Can tenders be sought if the funding is not approved?	<b>Cllr D Bree</b>
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The project for a multi storey 42 bed ward block at Sligo General Hospital is currently included in the HSE Capital Plan. The ward block proposal is currently at detailed design stage with planning permission already in place for some time. Works to relocate staff car parking are required to be completed prior to commencement of construction of the intended new ward block. A tender process for these car parking works along with the provision of additional car parking capacity was completed in 2021. However unfortunately award of a works contract was not successfully achieved with contractors unable to stand over their fixed price tenders due to significant cost inflation in 2021. This car park works package is currently being retendered and it is expected that a contract award will be made and that works would commence before the end of Q2 2022. These works have an anticipated construction programme of 9 months. It is also anticipated the 42 bed ward block project will progress through the detailed design and tender phases this year and that, subject to available funding and approval in 2023, that construction could commence before the end of Q2 2023. These works themselves are then likely to take up to two years to complete. A planning application is currently being prepared to address a number of campus wide issues resulting from the change of the out-patient entrance to the south elevation of the hospital and associated traffic related issues. It is envisaged that this application will include for elements relevant to the phasing of access to the hospital during construction of the new medical block. It is expected that this application will be lodged within the next 6-8 weeks.

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

<b>W97Q3179</b>	What is the recommended number (WTE) of nurse specialist posts in neurology in University Hospital Sligo; how many nurse specialists (WTE) in neurology are currently employed in the hospital and what plans, if any, are there to recruit additional nurse specialists in neurology?	<b>Cllr D Bree</b>
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<b>Disease Area</b>	<b>Recommendation by HSE Guidelines for CNS Posts – National Clinical Programme for Neurology</b>	<b>Presently in SUH</b>
Multiple Sclerosis	1CNS /315patients	1000 pts – 3 nurses (1 vacant due to Maternity Leave)
Parkinsons Disease/Movement disorders	1CNS /315 patients	1 candidate Advanced Nurse



		Practitioner
Epilepsy	1CNS /140,000 patients	2 Registered Advanced Nurse Practitioners
Headache	1CNS /140,000 patients	0
Rare Diseases	1CNS /500,000 patients	0

Currently in the Neurology Service we have two Advanced Nurse Practitioners in Epilepsy, three Clinical Nurse Specialists in Neurology (one vacant on maternity leave). There is also one candidate Advanced Nurse Practitioner Movement Disorders employed through CHO services, working across Sligo University Hospital and Sligo/Leitrim Community Services.

Neurology Services across the North West continue to face significant demands and any additional nurse specialist posts approved will be of significant benefit for improving access and care for patients.

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

<b>W97Q3180</b>	Since our meeting on 23rd November 2021 have there been any further discussions/developments on the provision of a Primary Health Care Centre in Oranmore	<b>Cllr L Carroll</b>
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HSE Capital & Estates have had discussions with the developer of the proposed Primary Care Centre in Oranmore. These discussions have not yet concluded.

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

<b>W97Q3181</b>	Could I be informed of the number of children and adults on waiting lists for orthopaedic assessment and treatment. Please give timescales for both assessment and treatment	<b>Cllr L Carroll</b>
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GUH Orthopaedics Waiting List Data (09 February 2022):

**Outpatients - Child**

Count of hospital name Column Labels

Row Labels	0-3 Months	3-6 Months	6-9 Months	9-12 Months	12-15 Months	15-18 Months	18-21 Months	21-24 Months	24-36 Months	36-48 Months	48+ Months	Grand Total
Has Appointment Date	7	22	5	1	1	2	2	1	4			45
No Appointment Date	48	91	79	71	52	49	26	25	52	7	1	501
Grand Total	55	113	84	72	53	51	28	26	56	7	1	546

**Outpatients - Adult**

Count of hospital name Column Labels

Row Labels	0-3 Months	3-6 Months	6-9 Months	9-12 Months	12-15 Months	15-18 Months	18-21 Months	21-24 Months	24-36 Months	36-48 Months	48+ Months	Grand Total
Has Appointment Date	61	26	4	2	8	8	6	20	148	11	11	305
No Appointment Date	405	972	823	594	527	504	458	431	827	223	170	5934
Suspended			3			12	24	16	106	34	1	196
Grand Total	466	998	830	596	535	524	488	467	1081	268	182	6435

**Inpatients - Child**

Count of Hospital Name	Column Labels								
Row Labels	0-3 Mths	3-6 Mths	6-9 Mths	9-12 Mths	18-24 Mths	24-36 Mths	Grand Total		
ACTIVE	7	8	6	4	4	2	31		
PREADMIT	1	3	1	1			6		
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>37</b>		

#### Inpatients - Adult

Count of Hospital Name	Column Labels										
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
ACTIVE	388	285	151	94	57	57	71	153	84	20	1360
PREADMIT	16	10	7	2		1		2	1		39
SUSPENSION	1	5	3	1	8	4	1	4	1		28
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>1427</b>

#### Portiuncula University Hospital:

PUH has one adult outpatient orthopaedic clinic per month led by a visiting Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon from GUH. This is an outpatient service only and patients for surgery are referred to Merlin Park University Hospital.

PUH Adult Orthopaedic OPD Waiting List (16 February 2022)							
0-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	12-15 months	15-18 months	26-36 months	Total
16	12	13	6	3	5	29	84

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

<b>W97Q3182</b>	When will a Full Time Podiatrist return to the Post at Letterkenny University Hospital?	<b>Clir G McMonagle</b>
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The Podiatrist will return to post on 07 March 2022.

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

<b>W97Q3183</b>	How many Adult Endocrinologists are now in situ at LUH, how many diabetic patients are currently awaiting review appointments, has adult care for diabetes evolved to include Pump Starts at LUH and how often do adults with Pumps get review appointments?	<b>Clir G McMonagle</b>
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Letterkenny University Hospital has approval for 2.0 WTE (whole time equivalent) Consultant Physicians in Endocrinology.

At present 1.0 WTE is filled on a permanent basis with 1.0 WTE filled on a locum basis. The permanent post has been advertised on several occasions with no successful candidate secured. The hospital is continuing to work with the Public Appointments Service to re-advertise yet again in the coming months.

There are 563 patients whose review appointments with Consultants are now overdue. These patients will receive appointments for clinics as outpatient activity continues to be re-instated post-Covid and initiatives to address the backlog of activity which has built up over the last 2 years are undertaken. In addition there are 659 patients with review appointments already scheduled for 2022 as part of their normal care pathway. This number will increase as new patients are given appointments at clinically appropriate intervals and these can range from 3 to 6 months, 12 months or longer.

47 adults attend the infusion pump clinic and they are reviewed every 6 months or more frequently if required.

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

<b>W97Q3184</b>	Can I have a breakdown of the numbers of young people in Donegal who are currently awaiting appointments with CAMHS the length of time they have been waiting, what steps are being taken to address these waiting lists and what safeguards are in place to ensure they are receiving adequate and safe care?	<b>Cllr G McMonagle</b>
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Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services [CAMHS] is a specialist service treating children and adolescents experiencing moderate to severe mental health difficulties. There are three Consultant Led multidisciplinary CAMHS teams delivering specialist services to the under eighteen year old population of Donegal. The multidisciplinary teams consist of Allied Health Professionals such as Psychology, Occupational Therapists, Social Workers, Speech & Language Therapists and Clinical Nurse Specialists.

Donegal CAMHS are members of the CHO1 CAMHS Service Improvement Programme and have also established their own local CAMHS Service Improvement Group. This has resulted in significant progress been made in reducing the overall waiting list numbers and the time waiting for an initial assessment. As demonstrated in the below table, the number of children and adolescents waiting for an initial assessment reduced from 144 in January 2021 down to 105 in January 2022. There are currently no service users waiting in excess of nine months for an initial assessment, compared to 44 in January 2021 and 62 in January 2020. Work is on-going in sustaining and improving service delivery and a CHO1 submission 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.

#### Waiting List Numbers and Waiting List Times (Jan 2020 – Jan 2022)

CAMHS Waiting Lists JAN 2020		CAMHS Waiting List JAN 2021		CAMHS Waiting Lists JAN 2022	
0-3 Months	75	0-3 Months	70	0-3 Months	67
3-6 Months	37	3-6 Months	24	3-6 Months	27
6-9 Months	24	6-9 Months	6	6-9 Months	11
9-12 Months	24	9-12 Months	11	9-12 Months	0
> 12 Months	38	> 12 Months	33	> 12 Months	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>105</b>

Significant investment has been made throughout 2021 in building capacity in the overall Donegal CAMHS service, with the successful recruitment of a 3<sup>rd</sup> CAMHS consultant and the introduction of a Principal Social Worker, covering Sligo/Leitrim & Donegal. A Senior Dietician was also recruited to address the growing number of eating disorder presentations. Notification of funding has also been recently received to recruit a CAMHS Assistant Director of Nursing and an Eating Disorder Clinical Nurse Specialist. The recruitment process to fill these positions will commence immediately. Other initiatives in 2021 included the temporary recruitment of locum consultant for a three month period, focusing specifically on the ADHD waiting list. These additional staff will significantly enhance clinical capacity and governance of the service.

CAMHS teams prioritise emergency and urgent referrals, contacting all referrers of urgent cases within 3 days (based on 2021 data). 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 Pieta House and Jigsaw.

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

<b>W97Q3185</b>	When will the Respite Centres for Children and Families dealing with Autism located in Ballybofey and Carndonagh reopen and become available to these children and their families and what is the current waiting times and number	<b>Cllr G McMonagle</b>
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	of children awaiting to access supports and psychologist assessments in Donegal?	
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Drumboe Respite House, Stranorlar, Co. Donegal is currently providing residential accommodation to four homeless people with a disability. One of the four people has been approved national emergency placement funding and will transition to a new residential placement in County Donegal by the end of Quarter 2, 2022. An existing HSE property is being refurbished for a second person and, subject to approval of national funding, will be ready for occupation by Quarter 3, 2022.

A new property was being procured for the remaining two people to reside together but this property was unfortunately withdrawn by the vendor and HSE CHO1 Property Management Department and Disability Services are therefore unable to continue with this proposal. The Property Management Department is actively sourcing alternative suitable properties in the area to accommodate the two people concerned. A full respite service will recommence in Drumboe Respite House when all four people have been provided with alternative residential accommodation.

Riverwalk House, Carndonagh is also currently being used by service users in response to emergency accommodation needs. Accommodation has been secured for one resident and works have commenced to bring the accommodation up to the required standards. The aim is for this resident to move to the new home at the end Q2, 2022. A second accommodation is being reviewed by HSE Estates and a business plan for the required resources has been approved. On completion, this will facilitate the reopening of Riverwalk House for respite for other service users and their families in the Inishowen area.

Ballymacool Respite House is being used as the alternative location for priority respite requests for people accessing Intellectual Disability Services, Inishowen. There is schedule for respite to support service users and families from Inishowen who wish to avail of respite in Ballymacool House. Additional home support packages are also available to families who require respite support, and these are reviewed and enhanced as required. HSE CHO1 Disability Services acknowledges and regrets the impact that the respite situation is having on people with disabilities and their families and to assure them that every conceivable effort is being made to find a satisfactory outcome for all involved as soon as possible.

There are currently 48 children on the Autism Therapist waiting list in County Donegal. The waiting list was impacted by Covid restrictions, retirement and maternity leave in the service. The retirement vacancy has now been filled and the maternity vacancy is in the process of being filled, both of which will positively affect the management of the waiting list.

A number of children with Autism transferred from Disability Services to Primary Care Psychology in Autumn 2021. There are currently 39 children with Autism waiting for intervention. The Primary Care Psychology service is actively addressing the needs of these children through a targeted waiting list initiative. The waiting times are listed below.

Number of weeks	Number of Children
<12	2
12-39	9
40-52 weeks	2
>52 weeks	26

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

<b>W97Q3186</b>	What is the average time it takes to conclude a medical card application? What percentage meet this schedule	<b>Cllr G Crawford</b>
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All key performance indicators and timelines around processing applications are currently being met and there are no delays in processing Medical Card applications. Fully completed new applications are processed within a 15 working day turnaround. It should be noted that those who are subject to an eligibility review continue to hold



eligibility until the application assessment is finalised.

### **National Medical Card Unit**

<b>W97Q3187</b>	What supports are available to assist Voluntary and Community groups in the area of Mental Health	<b>Cllr G Crawford</b>
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With regard to Sligo Leitrim and Donegal Mental Health Service, the supports to the community and voluntary groups financially is through Section 38, Section 39 Organisations and Service Level Agreements.

Additionally Connecting for Life offer financial support to some organisations as well as the National Lottery Fund and Mental Health Ireland funds.

There is an Engagement Lead for CHO1, who has a forum with community and voluntary groups across CHO1 also.

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

<b>W97Q3188</b>	Re. UHLKY. What percentage of Consultant to patient consultations was it possible to carry out by phone years ended Dec 2020 and Dec 2021.	<b>Cllr G Crawford</b>
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There were 53,011 outpatient appointments delivered in 2020, of which 4,032 were facilitated by telephone.

In 2021 there were 57,580 outpatient appointments of which 2,645 were facilitated by telephone.

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

<b>W97Q3189</b>	Does the N.A.S feel that its recruitment training program under it's varies headings will meet its targets in year 2022.	<b>Cllr G Crawford</b>
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The National Ambulance Service College (NASC) put in place a plan to deliver a number of educational programmes to meet the proposed recruitment needs of the NAS in 2022. To date we are not on schedule to meet the recruitment targets due to the small number of potential students accepting course places, which is a challenge faced by many functions across the HSE and even the wider public service. We will of course try to put in place additional course places later in the year if the recruitment process can identify suitable numbers of candidates for the courses.

### ***John Joe McGowan, Interim Chief Ambulance Officer, Operations, West***

<b>W97Q3190</b>	Can we have a updated report on the services being provided by CAMHS, child and adolescent mental health services based in Letterkenny, for Inishowen, north central and north west Donegal?	<b>Cllr C Brogan</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 Inishowen, North Central and North West Donegal areas mentioned in question raised by Cllr Brogan are covered by the CAMHS North Donegal Team and the CAMHS Inishowen team.

The Inishowen Team currently consists of;

- 1 Child & Adolescent Consultant Psychiatrist,
- 1 Non Consultant Hospital Doctor,
- 1 Clinical Nurse Manager 2
- 1 Staff Nurse,
- 2 Senior Social Workers,
- 1 Occupational Therapist,
- 1 Psychologist – who is due to return from maternity leave next month.

The team will move to their new accommodation in the new Primary Care Centre in Buncrana, which we expect to open by the end of March 2022.

The North Donegal team currently consists of;

- 1 Child & Adolescent Consultant Psychiatrist,
- 1 Non Consultant Hospital Doctor,
- 1 Clinical Nurse Manager 2,
- 1 Clinical Nurse Specialist,
- 1 Psychologist,
- 0.5 Senior Social Worker,
- 1 Senior Occupational Therapist,
- 1 Social Care Worker,
- 1 Speech and Language Therapist

An Advanced Nurse Practitioner supports the 3 CAMHS teams in the delivery of specialist services in County Donegal.

Donegal CAMHS are members of the CHO1 CAMHS Service Improvement Programme and have also established their own local CAMHS Service Improvement Group. This has resulted in significant progress being made in reducing the overall waiting list numbers and the time waiting for an initial assessment. The number of children and adolescents waiting for an initial assessment reduced from 144 in January 2021 down to 105 in January 2022. There are currently no service users waiting in excess of nine months for an initial assessment, compared to 44 in January 2021 and 62 in January 2020. Work is on-going in sustaining and improving service delivery and a CHO1 submission 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.

Investment has been made throughout 2021 in building clinical capacity in the overall Donegal CAMHS service, with the successful recruitment of a 3<sup>rd</sup> CAMHS consultant and the introduction of a Principal Social Worker, covering Sligo/Leitrim & Donegal. A Senior Dietician was also recruited to address the growing number of eating disorder presentations. Notification of funding has also been recently received to recruit a CAMHS Assistant Director of Nursing and an Eating Disorder Clinical Nurse Specialist. The recruitment process to fill these positions will commence immediately. These additional staff will significantly enhance the clinical capacity and governance within the service.

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

<b>W97Q3191</b>	Can we get a updated report on the commissioning of radiology intervention suite and the second CT scanner at LUH?	<b>Cllr C Brogan</b>
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We are awaiting approval for recruitment of staff Radiographers for the second CT scanner. However in the past 6 weeks, 5 new radiographers have commenced and in additional a further two radiographers are due to start in May 2022. It has been an invaluable asset to the Radiology Department during the Pandemic as it has ensured efficient scanning of patients that were Covid positive during their time in hospital.

The Interventional Radiology although not operating at full capacity is providing the services below. We are awaiting approval for recruitment of a Lead Radiographer.

- Interventional Radiology, PICC line, Portacaths, nephrostomy insertion and removal.
- Ultrasound guided biopsies and Drainages.
- Joint injections.
- Intravitreal eye service.
- Pacemaker insertions, loop recorder insertions and removals, Cardioversions, CRTD Insertions & EP studies

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

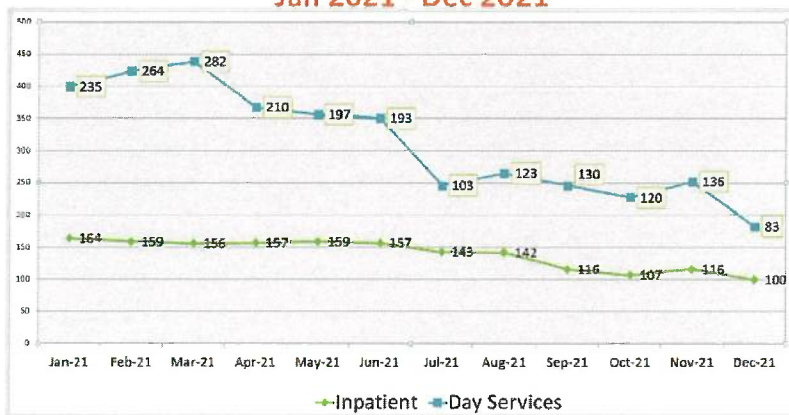
<b>W97Q3192</b>	Can we have an updated report on all services at LUH being fully operational, inpatient, outpatient, day surgery, Endoscopy, oncology, breast,	<b>Cllr C Brogan</b>
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	haematology, fractures, orthopaedics?	
<p>A number of hospital services were curtailed at the end of December and into January as a result of the increase in COVID-19 activity arising from the most recent wave of the pandemic. All hospital services have since resumed including outpatient, day cases and routine surgery, with priority being given to time-sensitive and urgent cases.</p> <p><i>T. Canavan, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group</i></p>		
<b>W97Q3193</b>	Can we have an updated report on the current recruitment of the Cancer Service positions and the provision of Cancer Services at LUH?	<b>ClIr C Brogan</b>
<p><b>Symptomatic Breast Services</b></p> <p>There is one permanent Consultant Breast Surgeon in post and a second Consultant on a fixed term contact. The hospital is currently engaging with the National Cancer Control Programme and the Department of Health to confirm the permanent appointment to the second post. Following the recent retirement of the Consultant Breast Radiologist, the hospital is currently employing a Radiologist on a locum basis with a new Consultant Breast Radiologist due to start full time in May.</p> <p>The current Clinical Nurse Specialist, Radiographers, General Nurses and admin support staff continue within the service. The Data Manager post which was filled on a temporary basis has recently been appointed on a permanent basis.</p> <p><b>Urology</b></p> <p>LUH continues to employ a full time Consultant Urologist on a permanent basis with a second permanent Consultant Urologist to start in mid April 2022.</p> <p>The Consultant Urologists are supported by a full team including, two Advanced Nurse Practitioners, a Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) and a candidate CNS who started in the last year.</p> <p><b>Colorectal Surgery</b></p> <p>The hospital has two permanent Consultant Colorectal Surgeons supported by two Clinical Nurse Specialists. In addition there are three Advanced Nurse Practitioners / Nurse Endoscopists attached to the Endoscopy Unit. The Endoscopy Unit now runs on an alternating six day week / seven day week with support and staff from an external company.</p> <p>The hospital is funded for a Capsular Endoscopy Service in Q2 of 2022.</p> <p><b>Lung Cancer</b></p> <p>LUH currently has three full time Consultant Respiratory Physicians (two on a permanent basis and one a fixed term contract). The third post is currently being advertised on a permanent basis. In addition Donegal has been approved for a Community Respiratory Physician to be appointed on a shared basis between the Community Health Organisation 1 and LUH. The service is supported by a CNS.</p> <p><b>Gynae Cancer</b></p> <p>LUH has implemented significant changes to the management of Endometrial Cancers following the publication of the Price report in August 2020. The hospital's Post-Menopausal Bleed Clinic was significantly enhanced from late 2020 and further enhanced by the opening of the ambulatory gynaecology service in March 2021.</p> <p>The ambulatory service has seen 658 patients since its opening. In addition a further three gynaecology theatre lists have been added in LUH since early May 2021. Consequently the outpatient waiting list has decreased from 1679 to 492. The inpatient and day case waiting list has also decreased over the last 12 months.</p>		

### Gynaecology OPD Waiting List numbers Aug 2020 - Dec 2021



### Day cases (DSU) & Inpatient (IP) Waiting List numbers Jan 2021 - Dec 2021



Additional staff have been recruited to support the gynae service; one ANP, a staff nurse, a HCA and administration staff including one Grade 3, a Business Manager VII and an IT MW and Clinical Nurse Manager.

#### Medical Oncology and Haematology

LUH has currently three permanent Consultant Medical Oncologists and two permanent Consultant Haematologists. The teams are supported by 0.5 WTE Advanced Nurse Practitioner (who also works 0.5 WTE on a Cancer Research Programme funded by the Irish Cancer Society) and a candidate ANP plus five Clinical Nurse Specialists.

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

<b>W97Q3194</b>	What is the most recent total number of active cases recorded for the number of Patients availing of CAMHS services in County Galway? From this number, how many patients are accessing services required for the treatment of ADHD and of this number, for how many is the prescribing of medication seen as the most appropriate treatment?	<b>Cllr J Connolly</b>
<b>What is the most recent total number of active cases recorded for the number of Patients availing of CAMHS services in County Galway?</b>		
2,392 at December 2021		
(To Note: 1. January 2022 figures not available by response deadline of 14/02.		
2. Includes Roscommon as part of East Galway/Roscommon team - breakdown not reported)		
<b>From this number, how many patients are accessing services required for the treatment of ADHD and of this</b>		

number,

Galway North	Galway South	Galway West	Galway East/Roscommon
291	320	231	307

For how many is the prescribing of medication seen as the most appropriate treatment? Pharmacological treatment of ADHD is only one part of the BioPsychoSocial approach to treatment of the illness, so in no case would it be considered the single most appropriate treatment for ADHD.

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

<b>W97Q3195</b>	Following screening of referrals made to CAMHS Galway in 2019, 2020 and in 2021, what number of referrals were considered routine and what was the average waiting time experienced by such patients awaiting an initial appointment?	<b>Cllr J Connolly</b>
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Following screening of referrals made to CAMHS Galway in 2019, 2020 and in 2021 what number of referrals were considered routine?

RHF-W97Q3195 Following screening of referrals made to CAMHS Galway in 2019, 2020 and in 2021, what number of referrals were considered routine			
Area	2019	2020	2021
Galway North	201	180	181
Galway South	13	69	187
Galway West	0	0	92
Galway East/Roscommon	171	198	297
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>447</b>	<b>757</b>

What was the average waiting time experienced by such patients awaiting an initial appointment?  
CAMHS do not systematically report waiting lists by diagnoses.

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

<b>W97Q3196</b>	How many children within the Health Forum area are in receipt of treatment for Juvenile idiopathic scoliosis? How many patients require corrective surgery and how long is the waiting list for such surgery?	<b>Cllr J Connolly</b>
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Not available at time of printing.

<b>W97Q3197</b>	Can the Forum be provided with the number of patients on each of the categories of inpatient and day-case waiting lists at Galway University Hospitals?	<b>Cllr J Connolly</b>
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GUH Waiting List Data (03 February 2022) -Day Case



Case Type	Day Case			
Count of Hospital Name	Column Labels			
Row Labels	ACTIVE	PREADMIT	SUSPENSION	Grand Total
Anaesthetics	1	120		121
Cardiology	933	7	2	942
Dermatology	40	64		104
Endocrinology	19			19
Gastro-Enterology	1174	170	7	1351
General Medicine	1	1		2
General Surgery	1148	189	71	1408
Gynaecology	227	40	33	300
Neurology	4			4
Ophthalmology	849	96	213	1158
Oral Surgery	380	78		458
Orthopaedics	663	23	17	703
Otolaryngology (ENT)	170	15	8	193
Pain Relief	657	20	157	834
Plastic Surgery	1439	100	39	1578
Respiratory Medicine	1			1
Urology	681	85	134	900
Vascular Surgery	93	1	6	100
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>8480</b>	<b>1009</b>	<b>687</b>	<b>10176</b>

#### Inpatients

Case Type	Inpatient			
Count of Hospital Name	Column Labels			
Row Labels	ACTIVE	PREADMIT	SUSPENSION	Grand Total
Cardiology	7			7
Cardio-Thoracic Surgery	75	4		79
Endocrinology	9			9
Gastro-Enterology	2			2
General Surgery	514	14	8	536
Gynaecology	129	3	4	136
Neurology	44	2		46
Ophthalmology	33	1	4	38
Oral Surgery	34	3		37
Orthopaedics	728	22	11	761
Otolaryngology (ENT)	288	6	29	323
Plastic Surgery	174	1	26	201
Respiratory Medicine	61	25		86
Urology	350	20	29	399
Vascular Surgery	122	1		123
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2570</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>2783</b>

**Active** = Patients on waiting list but do not have a date for their procedure

**Preadmit** = Patients on waiting list that have a date for their procedure

**Suspension** = Either 1) the patient has been outsourced for treatment in the private sector 2) they have been suspended for a clinical reason or 3) they are unavailable for treatment for a personal reason. The majority are

patients outsourced to the private sector.

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

<b>W97Q3198</b>	Can I get an update in relation to where the commencement of weekend Pharmacy services in GUH currently stands? The service is currently being provided by the operational ADON at weekends. Is there a requirement for a pharmacist to be onsite when medications are being dispensed at weekends?	<b>Cllr D Ó Cualáin</b>
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Currently UHG and MPUH do not have a weekend dispensing or on call service.

Submissions for additional resources in pharmacy to support weekend pharmacy dispensing have been made to HSE nationally, but this is linked in with discussions nationally surrounding pharmacy pay and grading.

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

<b>W97Q3199</b>	Can I get a breakdown on the number of calls received and dealt with by the Westdoc out of hours G.P service in 2020 and 2021 and what action/advice was provided? How many people were seen by the G.P or referred directly to The Emergency Department or National Ambulance Service?	<b>Cllr D Ó Cualáin</b>
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**GP Service 2020 - 2021**

1st Jan 2021 - 31st December 2021			1st Jan 2020 - 31st December 2020		
Case Type	No of Case	%	Case Type	No of Case	%
Nurse Advice	23170	27.19	Nurse Advice	20,277	27.40
Treatment Centre	17306	20.31	Treatment Centre	21793	29.45
Home Visit	1100	1.29	Home Visit	1334	1.80
Doctor Advice	36023	42.27	Doctor Advice	25116	33.94
Other	7629	8.95	Other	5484	7.41
<b>Total Cases</b>	<b>85228</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>Total Cases</b>	<b>74004</b>	<b>100.00</b>
Refer to ED/Ambulance Service			Refer to ED/Ambulance Service		
Refer to ED by Nurse	5434	33.62	Refer to ED by Nurse	4097	31.99
Refer to ED by Doctor	8488	52.51	Refer to ED by Doctor	6828	53.31
Refer to Ambulance service by Nurse	1774	10.98	Refer to Ambulance service by Nurse	1436	11.21
Refer to Ambulance service by Doctor	468	2.90	Refer to Ambulance service by Doctor	447	3.49
<b>Total</b>	<b>16164</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>12808</b>	<b>100.00</b>

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

<b>W97Q3200</b>	Can I get a breakdown on the areas within County Galway that currently have vacant G.P positions or are being covered by locum G.P's? How long are these positions vacant? When is it intended to undertake a recruitment campaign to fill these positions? When were these positions last advertised?	<b>Cllr D Ó Cualáin</b>
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Areas within County Galway Covered by Locum GPs due to Vacancies	Length of Time Vacant	Next Recruitment Campaign	Last Advertised	Remarks
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Inis Oirr/Inis Meáin	3 years & 5 months	Quarter 2, 2022	October 2021	<p>Advertised on six occasions without success. Arrangements put in place for services to be provided through a Locum Agency for 2022.</p> <p>Position filled by GPs employed through a Locum Agency.</p>
Oughterard	2 years & 8 months	To be decided	November 2021	<p>Advertised on eight occasions without success.</p> <p>Position filled by another GP in the area under a temporary GMS Contract. Full costs covered by the Primary Care Reimbursement Service (PCRS) section of the HSE.</p>
Clifden	2 years & 4 months	n/a	March 2021	<p>On-going discussions taking place with successful candidate following interview process.</p> <p>Position filled by GPs employed through a Locum Agency.</p>
Inishboffin/Inishturk	2 years & 2 months	n/a	March 2021	<p>On-going discussions taking place with successful candidate following interview process.</p> <p>Position filled by another GP in the area under a temporary GMS Contract. Full costs covered by the Primary Care Reimbursement Service (PCRS) section of the HSE.</p>
Kilconnell	1 year	Quarter 1, 2022	November 2021	<p>Advertised on five occasions without success.</p> <p>Position filled by GPs employed through a Locum Agency.</p>
Carraroe	2 months	Quarter 1, 2022	November 2021	<p>Advertised once without success.</p> <p>Position filled by GPs employed through a Locum Agency.</p>

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

<b>W97Q3201</b>	Can I get a breakdown by practice area on how much the HSE has spent to date on locum G.P services in the various areas in County Galway to provide G.P Services, where positions are vacant due to retirement/resignations and are awaiting to be filled permanently?	<b>Cllr D Ó Cualáin</b>
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Areas Within County Galway Covered by Locum GPs due to Retirements/Resignations	Length of Time Covered by Locum GPs	Amount Spent to date by Community Healthcare West	Remarks
Inis Oirr/Inis Meáin	3 years & 5 months	€1,100,000	Position filled by GPs employed through a Locum Agency.
Oughterard	2 years & 8 months	----	Position filled by another GP in the area under a temporary GMS Contract. Full costs covered by the Primary Care Reimbursement Service (PCRS) section of the HSE.
Clifden	2 years & 4 months	€460,000	Position filled by GPs employed through a Locum Agency.
Inishboffin/Inishturk	2 years and 2 months	----	Position filled by another GP in the area under a temporary GMS Contract. Full costs covered by the Primary Care Reimbursement Service (PCRS) section of the HSE.
Kilconnell	1 year	€120,000	Position filled by GPs employed through a Locum Agency.
Carraroe	2 months	€20,000	Position filled by GPs employed through a Locum Agency.

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

<b>W97Q3202</b>	Can the Regional Health Forum West provide details of the most recent average, longest and shortest waiting time from arrival to departure/admission at Sligo University Hospital A+E and to include details of the average, longest and shortest time from arrival at the A+E until the patient is seen by clinical staff in the A+E Department.	<b>Cllr D Gilroy</b>
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Sligo University Hospital monitors performance against national targets for length of time patients were seen and discharged or seen and admitted to the hospital. These targets are known as Patient Experience Times (PET)

The data below shows that in the second half of 2021 approximately 50% of patients were seen and discharged or seen and admitted from ED with 6 hours and up to 70% within 9 hours of arrival.

Month	6hr PET %	9hr PET %
Aug 2021	49.9%	68.9%
Sept	51.8%	70.2%
Oct	51.3%	69.5%
Nov	53.5%	72.9%
Dec	49.9%	67.9%
Jan 2022	54.6%	71.6%

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

<b>W97Q3203</b>	Can the Regional Health Forum West Provide an update on procedures to pay Student Nurses the €100 per week promised During the Covid 19 Pandemic, including how long after they start work in HSE Hospitals as part of their training does the payment begin and if this payment has been paid and is still being paid and for how long will they continue to be paid.	<b>Cllr D Gilroy</b>
<p>All student nurses and midwives that have undertaken supernumerary placements between the 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2020 until the end of the academic year 2020/2021 are entitled to the Pandemic Placement Grant.</p> <p>All students who were entitled to be paid as part of their pandemic placement who took up post were paid for the duration of that placement.</p> <p>All students were paid when the students submitted their personal documentation to support payment on the instruction of finance.</p> <p><i>T. Canavan, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group</i></p>		
<b>W97Q3204</b>	Can the Regional Health Forum advise if training in how best to highlight incidents of assault against service users in the Intellectual disability services and if staff are asked by managers within the service to use certain terms in their reports.	<b>Cllr D Gilroy</b>
<p>Policies, Procedures, Protocols and Guidelines (PPPG) are in place to guide managers and staff on the management of incidents in all HSE services including Disability Services and these are based on the HSE's Incident Management Framework. Mandatory training is provided on the HSELand training platform and service managers ensure that all staff complete this training. Additional training is provided to staff teams at local level. Disability Services' managers monitor mandatory training compliance rates for all staff using a Training Matrix tool.</p> <p>All members of staff in Disability Services receive mandatory safeguarding training on the national Safeguarding policy 2014 and its implementation. Safeguarding training highlights all of the different types of abuse and the reporting systems that need to be followed should an incident occur. It is the responsibility of staff to ensure the safety of service users regarding any safeguarding concern. A Safeguarding and Protection Team is in place in each CHO and is available to guide and support staff and managers in relation to any queries that arise.</p> <p>Disability Services have a Risk and Incident Management Policy in place, which is based on the HSE National Risk Management Policy and the HSE Incident Management Framework. Training for staff on incident management is on the HSELand training platform and managers ensure that all staff complete this training. Additional training is provided to staff teams at a local level. This policy states that incidents are categorised based on the level of harm caused to the person and are either Category 1 (Major and extreme harm), Category 2 (Moderate Harm) or Category 3 (Minor &amp; Negligible). A Quality and Patient Safety Advisor is assigned to support the required incident management standards in services.</p> <p>The Safeguarding Policy and the Risk and Incident Management Policy are both implemented if there is an incident of assault against a service user. The terms used to describe an assault incident must fit into the predetermined sections on the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and on the National Incident Report Form (NIRF). Safeguarding and incident management are standardly dealt with during management meetings across Disability Services in HSE CHO1 and monitored in line with the governance framework in place.</p> <p>Safeguarding information posters are displayed within each disability service/centre.</p> <p><i>Dermot Monaghan, A/Chief Officer, CHO1</i></p>		



<b>W97Q3205</b>	Can the RHFV provide an update on the provision of social services for older people at the centres in Cliffoney and Carrigans centres and when the services that were provided pre Covid 19 will be reinstated	<b>Cllr D Gilroy</b>
<p>The Social Day Centres in Cliffoney and Carrigans are both situated within the Primary Care Centres in Cliffoney and Carrigans. Structural reports on both the Cliffoney and Carrigans Centres have been received by the HSE and are currently being reviewed by senior management. Alternative suitable premises in the areas capable of providing a social day care services are also currently being considered.</p> <p>Older Persons Services is not currently in a position to advise on a re-opening date for either of the two Centres. Older Persons Services continue to provide Day Care at Home, increased Home Respite and Meals on Wheels to support older people and their families in North Sligo (based on an assessment of need being completed by the Public Health Nursing Service) whilst they await the re-opening of the Social Day Centre.</p> <p><i>Dermot Monaghan, A/Chief Officer, CHO1</i></p>		