

**Minutes of Regional Health Forum West meeting held on
Tuesday, 24th May, 2022 at 2.00pm in the Education Centre, Merlin Park, Galway.**

Miontuairiscí chruinniú an Fhóiraim Sláinte Réigiúnaigh a tionóladh Dé Máirt, 24ú Bealtaine 2022 ag 2.00
i.n, i Seomra 1 an tIonad Oideachais,
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte, Campas Ospidéal Páirc Mheirlinne, Gaillimh

Chairperson: Cllr Donagh Killilea

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

In attendance:

Tony Canavan, Executive Lead, Regional Health Forum/CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group
Ann Cosgrove, Chief Officer, Saolta University Health Care Group
Noreen Spillane, Chief Operating Officer, UL Hospital Group
Breda Crehan-Roche, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare West
Frank Morrison, A/Chief Officer, CHO, Area 1
JJ McGowan, Interim Chief Ambulance Officer, Operations West
John Fitzmaurice, Head of Disability Services, Community Healthcare West
Margaret Costello, Head of Primary Care Services, Community Healthcare Midwest
Nuala Kelly, Head of Mental Health Services, Community Healthcare Midwest
Niall Beatty, Business Manager CHO2
Norah Owens, Regional Health Forum Office
Marian Cavanagh, Regional Health Forum Office
Anna Lyons, Regional Health Forum Office

802/99/22 Minutes of previous meeting – 22nd March 2022

The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 22nd March 2022 were proposed by Cllr Blackie Gavin and seconded by Cllr Albert Doherty and adopted.

803/99/22 Matters Arising:

Cllr Michael Kilcoyne stated he did not accept the response he receive to follow up question W98Q3227 regarding Westdoc. The Chairperson Cllr Killilea said the Councillors comments would be noted.

804/99/22 Chairman's Business:

The Chairman welcomed the observers in the room.

805/99/22 Questions:

W99Q3267: Day Services in Sacred Heart Hospital, Castlebar

Action: Breda-Crehan Roche to keep Cllr Blackie Gavin up to date on the re-opening of day care services in the Sacred Heart Hospital, Castlebar

W99Q3268: Emergency Ambulance attendance at UHL

Action: JJ McGowan to provide Cllr Murphy with clarification in respect of the geographic breakdown of the patients, rather than the ambulances, being transported by the ambulances to A&E in Limerick. If it is possible to also have a breakdown of the time it would also be very helpful, this can be by shift rather than by hour.

W99Q3270: Primary Care Centre, Ennis:

Action: Maria Bridgeman to organise a visit for the councillors to the new Primary Care Centre in Ennis.

W99Q3277: Civil Registration Offices

Action: Breda Crehan Roche to revert to Cllr Kilcoyne with confirmation that people can call in to the local BDM offices if necessary.

W99Q3280: Report into the Flood at LUH

Action: T Canavan to follow up regarding the legal status of the review in relation to releasing this report.

W99Q3284: Caretaker Cottage at Ballina District Hospital:

Action: J. Hoare to have a look at the caretaker cottage at Ballina District Hospital.

W99Q3285: Responses to 999 calls:

Action: JJ McGowan to revert to Cllr O'Hara on details of a specific call out.

W99Q3286: Long waits for Bloods with GPs:

Action: Breda Crehan Roche to talk to Cllr O'Hara regarding specific GPs.

W99Q3290: ID card for Older People:

Tony Canavan suggested having a presentation at an RHF Committee on the Individual Health Identifier.

Action: RHF Office to organise

W99Q3291: Mobile BreastCheck Services in Leitrim/Carrick on Shannon:

Action: RHF Office to forward Cllr Armstrong McGuire's request that the Mobile BreastCheck Clinic be returned to Leitrim/Carrick on Shannon.

W99Q3294: Directive issued to Carers going in to homes

Action: Breda Crehan Roche offered to make contact with Cllr McDonnell if he had a specific case.

W99Q3303: Diagnostics at Tuam Primary Care Centre

Action: Joe Hoare to update Cllr Killilea regarding the X-Ray equipment at the Tuam Primary Care Centre.

W99Q3305: Inishowen Properties:

Action: F Morrison to update Cllr Albert Doherty on No. 11 Convent Road.

W99Q3306: Miltown House, Carndonagh:

Action: F Morrison to keep Cllr Albert Doherty updated on the development and timeframe for Miltown House, Carndonagh.

W99Q3310: Release of ED Sligo report:

Action: T Canavan to confirm to Cllr Bree if/when the ED report can be issued.

W99Q3326: Primary Care Centre Oranmore

Action: Joe Hoare to have an update for the next meeting regarding the Primary Care Centre Oranmore.

W99Q3329: Re-opening of birth registration office

Action: Breda-Crehan Roche to keep Cllr Daithí Ó Cualáin updated on the reopening of the birth registration office in Galway.

W99Q3330: Waiting times on Oral Maxillo Facial Service in Galway:

Action: T Canavan to revert to Cllr Daithí Ó Cualáin regarding the waiting list for Oral Maxillo Facial service in Galway.

806/99/22 Motions:

W99M120: Hospital reconfiguration and ED closures at Ennis, Nenagh and St. John's Hospital

This Motion was proposed by Cllr Liam Grant and seconded by Cllr Mary Howard.

Action: Noreen Spillane offered to have a meeting with the Regional Health Forum Members for the Midwest area on this matter. Cllr Grant requested that the Mid-West Hospital Campaign be included.

W99M121: Gynaecology Department funding for Ennis Hospital.

This Motion was proposed by Cllr Mary Howard and seconded by Cllr Liam Grant.

Action: RHF Office to forward this Motion to the Minister for Health.

W99M124: Disability Centres in the CHO 1 Area:

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

Action: RHF Office to forward this Motion to the Minister for Health and CEO, HSE

W99M125: GP's charging medical card holders for phlebotomy services:

This Motion was proposed by Cllr Daithí Ó Cualáin and seconded by Cllr Donagh Killilea.

Action: RHF Office to forward this Motion to the Minister for Health.

807/99/22 Any Other Business:

808/99/22 Date & Time of Next Meeting:

Future Meetings:

The next Regional Health Forum West meeting will take place on Tuesday 28th June, 2022 at 2pm.

The next **Regional Health Forum Committee** Meeting will take place on Tuesday 25th October 2022 at 2pm
(Venue to be decided)

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach/Chairman
Adopted at the Regional Health Forum West meeting

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES
REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM WEST – 28TH JUNE 2022

Number:	QUESTION	RAISED BY	Page No.
W100Q3333	Ambulances protocol Co Clare?	Cllr M Howard	3
W100Q3334	Bed management system in UHL.	Cllr M Howard	3-5
W100Q3335	Dentists in Co Clare available for medical card holders.	Cllr M Howard	5-6
W100Q3336	Update on the Endometriosis services.	Cllr M Howard	6
W100Q3337	Transfer of HSE owned land at Knockaphunta, Castlebar to Mayo County Council.	Cllr B Gavin	6-7
W100Q3338	Appointment system for A & E possible?	Cllr J O'Hara	7
W100Q3339	Respite Service.	Cllr J O'Hara	7-8
W100Q3340	New Emergency Department at Mayo University Hospital;	Cllr M Kilcoyne	8
W100Q3341	Operation of Day Care Centres for elderly patients in County Mayo.	Cllr M Kilcoyne	8-9
W100Q3342	HSE Home care staff cover arrangements.	Cllr M Kilcoyne	9
W100Q3343	Crewed HSE ambulances County Mayo and locations?	Cllr M Kilcoyne	9-10
W100Q3344	Update on the compliment of Occupational Therapist in Donegal.	Cllr G McMonagle	10-11
W100Q3345	Update on the Roll out of the Government's Covid Payment to Staff in the health service, which staff and when to be paid.	Cllr G McMonagle	11-12
W100Q3346	Are there any Plans to return a full time Rheumatology clinic to Letterkenny University Hospital?	Cllr G McMonagle	12
W100Q3347	Funding help from HSE/CHO1 to the Donegal Rape Crisis Centre.	Cllr G McMonagle	12
W100Q3348	Update on the new elective hospital and A&E.	Cllr D Killilea	12
W100Q3349	Update on the diagnostic services for Tuam.	Cllr D Killilea	12
W100Q3350	Diagnostic services at UHG.	Cllr D Killilea	13
W100Q3351	Full list of GPs registered to practice in County Clare.	Cllr C Murphy	13-15
W100Q3352	NAS Classifications and UHL attendances.	Cllr C Murphy	15-16
W100Q3353	Update on the Pathfinder program for West Clare.	Cllr C Murphy	16
W100Q3354	How many Clinical Nurse Manager vacancies are there currently in UHG	Cllr M O'Connor	16
W100Q3355	How many Staff Nurse vacancies are there currently in UHG	Cllr M O'Connor	17
W100Q3356	When will the land zoned Recreation and Amenity (used as temporary Helipad at GUH) be returned to Galway City Council/Shantalla Park	Cllr M O'Connor	17
W100Q3357	When will plans for a new Emergency Department/Bus corridor at UHG be available	Cllr M O'Connor	17
W100Q3358	Planning permission for the extra car parking spaces at RUH	Cllr T Ward	17
W100Q3359	Update on the proposed 50 bedroom unit at the Sacred Heart Hospital Roscommon.	Cllr T Ward	17-18
W100Q3360	Wait times for Paediatric Assessments for OT, S & L and Psychology Services in South Roscommon, County Roscommon.	Cllr T Ward	18
W100Q3361	CAMHS waiting lists County Roscommon.	Cllr T Ward	19
W100Q3362	Old Health Centre Binion Rd. Clonmany as a potential social housing/apartment source.	Cllr A Doherty	19
W100Q3363	Updates on PUH re 50 bed unit and second CT scanner.	Cllr E Francis Parsons	19
W100Q3364	Updates on PUH Consultant posts.	Cllr E Francis Parsons	20

W100Q3365	What is the statutory timeframe for MHC Inspections of Community Mental Health Staffed Residence? Date of last Inspection of Riverside House Ballinasloe. Please provide details of current staffing, Consultant Psychiatrist input & No. of residents & day attendees. Details of complaints logged relating to Riverview House years 2021 / 2022. What is the SOP for addressing complaints & concerns regarding safety & appropriate supervision in the community of attendees to this service.	Cllr E Francis Parsons	20
W100Q3366	Raising awareness of testicular cancer, support to men living with prostate cancer.	Cllr E Francis Parsons	21-23
W100Q3367	Appointment difficulties at the Oncology Unit at LUH.	Cllr A Doherty	24
W100Q3368	Alternative accommodation in the Carndonagh area for day services to clients of Older Persons Services?	Cllr A Doherty	24
W100Q3369	Home help / home care hours/provision of service Co Sligo.	Cllr D Bree	24
W100Q3370	A&E attendances SUH in 2021 & 2022 to date, weekly.	Cllr D Bree	25
W100Q3371	CAMHS in Sligo-Leitrim area, staffing, vacancies, wait list initiative fund.	Cllr D Bree	25-26
W100Q3372	Timeframes re attendances at SUH Jan, Feb, March, April 2022.	Cllr D Bree	26
W100Q3373	Up to date figures on Emergency Department Patient Experience Time at SUH. (categories listed)	Cllr D Gilroy	27
W100Q3374	Update on staffing at Chronic Disease Hubs across the RHFV area, and Sligo in particular re community-based consultant endocrinologist.	Cllr D Gilroy	27-28
W100Q3375	Percentage of Ambulances with Time interval 30mins or less from ED arrival to release of Ambulance for calls.	Cllr D Gilroy	28-29
W100Q3376	Provision of Minor Injury Units across the RHFV Area	Cllr D Gilroy	29-31
W100Q3377	Pharmacists and patients registered in Galway City participating in the Opioid Substitution Treatment Scheme?	Cllr J Connolly	31
W100Q3378	Respite care currently available for children with disabilities in CHO 2	Cllr J Connolly	31-32
W100Q3379	Covid Testing Centres Staffing.	Cllr J Connolly	33-34
W100Q3380	Number of Hospital Initiated Cancellation of Procedures in 2021.	Cllr J Connolly	34-38
W100Q3381	Orthopaedic service - Adult hip surgery and assessment wait times.	Cllr D Ó Cualáin	38-39
W100Q3382	Private Security companies payments and services for 2020 2021 and 2022 to provide services at the hospital and contract renewal dates.	Cllr D Ó Cualáin	39
W100Q3383	Patient capacity of temporary ED when open? Plans for expected ED winter surge.	Cllr D Ó Cualáin	39-40
W100Q3384	Update in relation to the new ambulance base in north Connemara. Where are the additional crews for north Connemara currently based and operating from?	Cllr D Ó Cualáin	40-41
W100Q3385	Has alternative accommodation been secured by the HSE for clients who had emergency full time respite provision at Riverwalk House?	Cllr A Doherty	41
W100Q3386	What will the HSE do to improve respite opportunities in the Lifford Community Hospital area?	Cllr G Crawford	41
W100Q3387	Update on the future of Community Hospital services in Lifford.	Cllr G Crawford	41
W100Q3388	Further use /development of the St Conals complex in Letterkenny.	Cllr G Crawford	41
W100Q3389	Restoration of day care services to the Lifford catchment area.	Cllr G Crawford	42
W100Q3390	Counselling services for people trying to deal with coming out of Covid.	Cllr F Gurn	42
W100Q3391	Inspection of HSE derelict buildings.	Cllr F Gurn	42

Number:	QUESTION	RAISED BY
W100Q3333	What is the protocol regarding ambulances being called in Co Clare? Can they only go to UHL.	Cllr M Howard
<p>The NAS operates a singular platform for all call taking and dispatch and utilises a range of models to respond to emergency and urgent calls. The primary NAS receiving facility in the Mid-West is the University Hospital Limerick (UHL) which is the largest hospital in the UHL Group. It is the only hospital in the Midwest that has a full 24/7/365 emergency care and critical care service for those who require more complex medical and surgical care. The hospital has a dedicated coronary centre that treats patients who had serious heart attacks, and a thrombolysis centre provides vital care for acute stroke.</p> <p>NAS, depending on patient condition, transports patients to the closest most appropriate Emergency Department. Thus, this will be dependent on what location the patient starts their journey from in County Clare. I.e. University Hospital Galway may be closer to North West, Clare.</p> <p>JJ McGowan, Chief Ambulance Officer - West</p>		
W100Q3334	We have been told recently that the bed management system in UHL has broken down! What measures are been taken to deal with this situation?	Cllr M Howard
<p>During times of acute service pressure, we follow our escalation plan, which includes additional ward rounds, identifying patients for discharge or transfer to our Model 2 hospitals and other measures. As a last resort, reductions in scheduled care may also be necessary to decongest the UHL site and improve patient flow.</p> <p>We have reviewed our escalation plan in review to the significant increase in demand over recent months.</p> <p>A team from the HSE, UL Hospitals Group and the Mid West Community Healthcare is currently being established to devise and implement specific actions to deal with the challenges in responding to the unprecedented level of demand for services at UHL and the wider region in recent months. This team will examine, among other things, how we optimise existing resources and improve patient flow.</p> <p>The establishment of this new group follows a review of unscheduled care at UHL carried out by HSE personnel in May and June. The team is similar to teams that have recently supported services in both Cork University Hospital and University Hospital Kerry.</p> <p>In addition, the CEO of UL Hospitals Group has commissioned Deloitte to conduct an external review of patient flow at University Hospital Limerick. This review is intended to provide an independent and comprehensive overview of patient flow through the ED at UHL while at the same time looking at the use of resources, processes in place and identifying any constraints. Our community and GP colleagues in the MidWest are also being consulted as part of this review and the final report from Deloitte is expected in the coming weeks.</p> <p>The longstanding efforts of local management and staff, and of the HSE nationally, to alleviate pressure on the ED through adding capacity, resources and providing alternatives also need to be acknowledged.</p> <p>These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased activity in our Injury Units with an annual growth in attendances (YTD April 30th) of 68% at Nenagh Injury Unit so far this year and 27% at Ennis Injury Unit. In April 2022, Nenagh Injury Unit had its busiest month to date and Ennis, its second busiest. • Attendances at our Medical Assessment Units in Ennis and Nenagh grew by a combined 19% between 2019 and 2021. In the first five months of this year they have seen a further annual increase of 17% combined. • An increase in staff of 37% across UL Hospitals Group since December 2019. 		

- An increase in bed capacity at UHL of 98 inpatient beds and 10 critical care beds since the start of the pandemic.
- More patients receiving care than ever before at UHL with an increase of 24% in inpatient discharges between 2019 and 2021 and a further year-on-year increase of 12% in the first quarter of this year.

In addition management and staff have put in place integrated care pathways, hospital avoidance and other initiatives to improve patient flow. These include

- Red2Green an electronic patient flow system is completed twice daily by ward managers and the information inputted is available to patient flow, bed management and senior nurse management in order to assist in managing patient flow on a daily basis. The focus is on predicted date of discharge, transfers and identifying complex discharges early and ensuring discharge plans are in place for all patients. This also ensures there is a hospital wide focus on ensuring patient flow from our ED, Acute Medical Unit and Acute Surgical Assessment Unit.
- OPTIMEND a new model of delivering ED care to elderly people involving a multidisciplinary team of health and social care professionals (e.g. physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, medical social work, clinical pharmacy) has been introduced in UHL. The overall aim of the OPTIMEND team is to commence early assessment and intervention of frail older adults within the ED with the view of facilitating discharge home. In 2021 the team saw 804 patients with an average discharge rate of 70%.
- There are plans in place to introduce the Pathfinder Programme in Mid-West region. Recruitment campaigns for a Clinical Specialist Physiotherapist, Occupational Therapist, Senior Physiotherapist and Senior Occupational Therapist are ongoing to support the launch of this service. In addition, the National Ambulance Service has identified two Advanced Paramedics to support this programme. Once staff are in place we will be able to indicate when the Pathfinder Programme will launch in the Mid-West region.
- Twice daily teleconferences are chaired by the Unscheduled Care Lead and focus on patient flow in UHL and across the entire group. All directorate teams and sites participate and barriers to flow are escalated and addressed.
- Weekly discharge teleconference calls are held with Community Healthcare Mid-West to manage and agree plans for patients who are Delayed Transfers of Care, as well as planning for complex cases who are not yet ready for discharge.

We are also working with colleagues in HSE Mid West Community Healthcare on integrated care pathways and hospital avoidance, including initiatives focused on older people living with frailty. These include:

- Integrated Care Programme for Older Persons (ICPOP) is a Community-based specialist service that provides rapid access to a multidisciplinary-delivered comprehensive geriatric assessment (CGA) for older adults living with frailty or at risk of developing frailty. To date this year, ICPOP teams in Clare, Limerick and North Tipperary have received approximately 400 referrals and completed approximately 3,000 assessments and interventions.
- Almost 6,000 radiology tests completed up to the end of April 2022 under the direct GP access Community Diagnostics Programme.
- Community Intervention Teams (CIT) based in Clare, Limerick and North Tipperary focus on hospital avoidance and early supported discharge to the person's home.

Through this continued work on patient flow, hospital avoidance and on discharge planning, UL Hospitals Group, in spite of its capacity challenges, has persistently met national targets for average length of stay for medical and surgical patients; day of surgery admissions etc. We have also performed relatively well on delayed transfers of care.

We are committed to working with the national team on improving patient flow. However no amount of these projects will address the fundamental shortfall in acute bed capacity in the MidWest.

Historical bed capacity shortages in the region have been well documented. ULHG has the lowest inpatient bed capacity when benchmarked per population against other Model 4 Hospitals, an additional 200 inpatient beds would be required to bring ULHG in line with the national average.

Below is a breakdown of how inpatient bed capacity and emergency attendances at UHL compare to other Model 4 hospitals:

Hospital	Inpatient beds	ED attendances 2021
St James' Hospital	698	48,397
UHL	530	76,473
Mater	614	89,335
SVUH	510	60,748

We welcome the recent significant investment and bed capacity provided in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, however it does not sufficiently address the well-documented bed capacity shortcomings in the Mid-West region, nor does it adequately address the continuing growth in demand for emergency care.

In 2021, the ED at UHL saw a record 76,473 attendances, an increase of 17% on the previous year. In the first four months of this year, we have seen a further 26,548 ED attendances, an increase of another 20% on the corresponding period for 2021. The number of over 75s attending our ED has risen by an even greater proportion.

Our next significant project in terms of bed capacity is the 96-bed block for UHL which was granted planning permission earlier this year.

C. Cowan CEO UL Hospitals Group

W100Q3335	Can the HSE provide a list of dentists in Co Clare that provide services to those who have medical cards.	Clr M Howard
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Private dental practitioners contracted under the Dental Treatment Services Scheme (DTSS) provide dental services to medical card holders (adults over 16 years of age). Under the scheme, a medical card holder is entitled to a limited range of dental treatment in a calendar year i.e. one dental examination, two fillings, a scale and polish and as many extractions as necessary. There are additional dental treatments available but they require the approval of the Principal Dental Surgeon in the Community Healthcare Organisation (CHO) area prior to the commencement of such treatment (e.g. dentures). The Dental Surgeon can advise the patient of the treatment(s) available to them under the scheme.

I am attaching the list of DTSS dental practitioners who are based in Co. Clare. There are DTSS contracted dental practitioners based in Shannon, Ennis, Sixmilebridge, Scariff, Killaloe/Ballina and Kilrush.

Please note that the name of a DTSS contracted dental practitioner can only be removed from the list of contracted dental practitioners if they advise the DTSS Office in the CHO area in writing that they no longer wish to participate in the scheme or if they are leaving the CHO area. Therefore, there may be contact details on the attached list for dental practitioners who no longer participate in the scheme.

A medical card holder is not confined to attending a practice in their local area and many patients travel from Co. Clare to a dental surgeon/practice in Limerick to receive treatment under the scheme. A medical card holder can attend any DTSS contracted dental surgeon/practice anywhere in the country if they are in a position to take them on as a patient.

DTSS Dental Practitioners based in Co. Clare

CLARE		
BROWNE, GERARD	DENTAL CENTRE, WOODQUAY, ENNIS, CO. CLARE.	065 6828227
COTREAVE, A.E.	16 MERCHANT'S SQUARE, ENNIS, CO. CLARE.	065 6821612
MAHONY, DERMOTT F.	STEELES TCE., ENNIS, CO. CLARE.	065 6821547
McCARTHY, NIALL	UNIT 101, MERCHANTS QUAY, FRANCES ST., KILRUSH, CO. CLARE.	065 9052888
McGRATH, EIMEAR	THE OLD MILL DENTAL, GEORGES ST., SIXMILEBRIDGE, CO. CLARE.	061 713685
McNICHOLL, BARRY	16 MERCHANTS SQ., ENNIS, CO. CLARE.	065 6821612
O'BRIEN, JACQUELINE	WOODQUAY, PARNELL ST., ENNIS, CO. CLARE.	065 6828227
O'MEARA, JUDITH	DENTAL SURGERY, CONNAUGHT RD, SCARRIFF, CO. CLARE.	061 640926
O'NEILL, AOIFE	ENNIS DENTAL H.C., WOODQUAY HSE., PARNELL ST., ENNIS	065 6828227
O'DOWD, BRENDA	RYAGAN HOUSE, SHANTRAUD, KILLALOE, CO. CLARE.	061 374744
O'REGAN, OONA	DENTAL CARE IRELAND, ROSLEVAN S. C., ENNIS, CO. CLARE.	065 6828486
RYAN, MICHAEL	DENTAL EXCELLENCE, 17 FERGUS RD., SHANNON, CO. CLARE.	061 471164
STAMATE, ROBIN	DENTAL EXCELLENCE, 17 FERGUS RD., SHANNON, CO. CLARE.	061 471164
STAMATE, ANCA	DENTAL EXCELLENCE, 17 FERGUS RD., SHANNON, CO. CLARE.	061 471164

Maria Bridgeman, Chief Officer, HSE Mid West Community Healthcare

W100Q3336	Has there been an update on the promised expanded Endometriosis services. What services are proposed and where will the centres be located?	Cllr M Howard
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A framework for the delivery of endometriosis care is being developed nationally by the National Women's and Infant Health Programme.

A number of dedicated clinical resources will be required at UL Hospitals Group to ensure the delivery of endometriosis care. A business case has been developed and submitted to the HSE nationally for consideration.

C. Cowan CEO UL Hospitals Group

W100Q3337	What is causing the delay in the transfer of HSE owned land at Knockaphunta, Castlebar to Mayo County council for the purpose of developing sporting facilities. Furthermore, is there a date or an estimate on when this transfer will be complete? As a consequence of these delays, Mayo County council are not in a position to make an application for funding.	Cllr B Gavin
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The transfer of land at Knockaphunta, Castlebar from HSE to Mayo County Council has taken a lot longer than anyone could have expected or desired mainly due to impact of changes in personnel within both the HSE & Mayo County Council, followed by COVID. At the time of the 'Part 8 process' covering the site at Knockaphunta there were various iterations of the land transfer maps which have subsequently required clarification/ verification as to what was approved in the Part 8 and what was approved by the HSE property transaction process, also flood risk maps have since become available and been considered in more recent interactions between the parties. The process of reconciling of maps is now substantially complete. Discussions at the time also recognised the need, to jointly service the future requirements of Mayo County Council which at the time of the Part 8, were for playing fields and associated amenity lands with regard to road access, parking and utilities and the HSE requirements albeit different and less defined at that time but none the less needed to cater for known and unknown future healthcare developments on

the adjoining land. Since last year there has been engagement between the parties which has provided a better understanding of matters of concern. In line with the HSE's Property Protocol, HSE will notify the property committee in the coming weeks of minor boundary amendments at Knocknaphunta. The land transfer can then be progressed in parallel with this and the process to outline a phased masterplan, for orderly development of the roads and utilities to serve the lands at Knocknaphunta lands.

Joe Hoare, Assistant National Director, Capital & Estates

W100Q3338	Considering the length of time people must stay in a que in A & E at our General Hospitals would it not be better if there was an appointment made for a person to arrive at a certain time. The way it is, is a real disaster and does not work	Cllr J O'Hara
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The Emergency Department (ED) of an acute hospital is seen as the "front door" of the hospital, which specialises in emergency medicine and provides acute care to patients who present without prior appointment. The ED deals with all care that cannot be scheduled in advance due to the acute presentation of some of the condition and the unscheduled presentation of patients.

Where patients have an non-acute chronic condition they should be directed to AMU or OPD services.

Emergency medicine is a medical specialty focusing on the prevention, diagnosis and management of acute and urgent aspects of illness and injury affecting patients of all age groups with a full spectrum of undifferentiated physical and behavioural disorders.

T. Canavan, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group

W100Q3339	Why is there no respite available anymore. When is it going to be back to normal. It is not fair looking after someone 24/7 without getting any break whatsoever.	Cllr J O'Hara
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The current status across Community Healthcare West is as follows:-

- 2 respite beds available in Ballina District Hospital.
- Respite is currently available at Dalton Community Nursing Unit and St. Fionnan's Community Nursing Unit.
- 12 respite beds funded by the HSE and available in the Western Alzheimer's Unit in Ballindine.
- HSE have contracted 5 respite beds in Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo and are available for convalescence care for older people.

Older People's Services (OPS) are currently reviewing beds in the District Hospitals in Mayo with a view to increasing availability of respite in the county.

In addition, the HSE fund Western Alzheimer's Society of Ireland to provide the following services for people with Dementia in Mayo:

- In-home respite and Day Care
- Day services in Castlebar which is open
- "Befriending service" which assists families caring for older people at home. Currently Western Alzheimer's have 43 befrienders active across Community Healthcare West and a number are in process of being placed with clients to support them and their families at home.
- All of these are forms of respite and support people living at home

Community Healthcare west have an emergency respite protocol in place, to deliver emergency respite either through in-home supports or placement in a nursing home.

The HSE encourage all family carers to apply for the Carer's Support Grant, previously called the Respite Grant, which is €1,850 and can be used to pay for respite care. This grant is not means tested.

Disability Respite Services for Co. Mayo

The number of overnight respite spaces in Mayo (and the number currently used every night of the week)

	Adult Respite Bed nights per Week		Child Respite Bed nights per Week	
	Available	Used	Available	Used
Western Care	61	61	15	15
Communicare	12	12		
Cheshire	14	4		

It should be noted that the above availability is reflective of the current situation in Community Healthcare West and not on our contracted respite capacity- which is the respite capacity we contract agencies to deliver.

The available respite bed nights available have been reduced this year owing to a number of factors such as accommodating three emergency residential placements in respite settings, Covid 19 and staffing challenges. However, all bed nights available are being maximised right across Community Healthcare West.

There are a number of issues reducing respite capacity in Mayo.

- Emergency residential
- Significant staffing challenges across the sector with recruitment and retention of staff.
- Covid-19 still has an effect on service provision in terms of numbers that can access and staff availability.

Respite in Community Healthcare West is delivered by our non-statutory service providers. This Respite to families and children is delivered in a number of different formats such as centre based respite Home Share/Host Families, Outreach, Day respite, In-home respite supports, community/evening respite and children’s holiday camps. We are actively progressing options with our non-statutory service providers to increase capacity across all types of respite supports.

Breda Crehan-Roche, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare West

W100Q3340	In relation to the new Emergency Department at Mayo University Hospital; When will the plans be ready? When do you intend to apply for Planning Permission? When is it expected to be operational?	Cllr M Kilcoyne
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A full design team has been appointed to progress the Emergency Department and Medical Assessment Unit project at Mayo University Hospital. The design team is developing a preliminary scheme design based on the requirements and site constraints. It is anticipated that the preliminary outline design (stage 1) will be available August 2022. Delays have been experienced on this project when the design team were temporarily diverted to progress the scheme for the CT replacement project. A planning permission application is anticipated in due course once the design process has been sufficiently advanced. This project is included in the HSE Capital Plan and sufficient funding is available in 2022 to meet the anticipated cash flow requirements arising. The timeline for commencement of construction is dependent on the time required to complete the design and tender process. The overall project programme is currently being reviewed in parallel with the preliminary design process (stage 1).

Joe Hoare, Assistant National Director, Capital & Estates West

W100Q3341	In relation to Day Care Centres for elderly patients in County Mayo; How many of these centres are now open and how many people do they cater for each week? Please supply dates for opening the ones currently closed or not operating at full capacity.	Cllr M Kilcoyne
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Centre Name	Location	Date reopened	If closed, date of proposed reopening	How many client does the Ctr cater for	No of days per week

Fr. Peyton Memorial Centre	Ballina	Sept 2021	N/A	20	1
Killala Community Council Day Care	Killala	October 2021	N/A	16	1
Kilmovee Day Care	Ballaghaderreen	January 2022	N/A	30	1
Cuan Modh Day Care	Barrack Hill	Closed	Sept 2022	60	2
Castlebar Day Services	Castlebar	February 2022	N/A	15	2
St. Coleman's Day Services	Achill	February 2022	N/A	30	4
Seirbhisi Curam Chill Chomain Teo	Ballina	February 2022	N/A	20	1
St. John's Rest & Day Care Centre	Knock	October 2021	N/A	30-40	2
Ballycroy Social Services Day Services	Westport	March 2022	N/A	10	1
Swinford District Hospital Day Services	Swinford	December 2021	N/A	13	3
Alzheimer's Society of Ireland	Castlebar	March 2022	N/A	16	3
Dalton CNU – Day Services	Claremorris	Closed	28 th July 2022	6	2
St Augustine's CNU – Day Services	Ballina	Closed	Reopening dependent on staff - currently working through this	Dependent on no. of staff available	Dependent on no. staff available
Sacred Heart Hospital - Day Services	Castlebar	Closed	15 th July 2022	6	3

Breda Crehan-Roche, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare West

W100Q3342	Is it true that HSE Home care staff have to make arrangements themselves to source cover if they are unable to attend work due to sickness etc? Is anyone in the HSE available after 5pm daily to assist HSE home care staff to source this cover or at any time on Saturday and Sunday and on a public holiday?	Clr M Kilcoyne
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Health Care Support Assistant's (HCSA's) are not requested to source cover, staff are covered by the Home Support Manager when on leave. The Health Care Support Assistant completes a leave sheet with details of proposed leave, which is then submitted to the local Home Support office.

All Home Support Office's operates Monday to Friday inclusive. Currently the HSE do not have an out of hour's service in place.

Breda Crehan-Roche, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare West

W100Q3343	How many crewed HSE ambulances are based in County Mayo and list their locations? Of these how many are crewed and available for emergency call outs per night?	Clr M Kilcoyne
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Mayo Currently has ambulance stations in Castlebar, Belmullet, Ballina and Mulranney. All stations provide night cover. However, Belmullet is on an on-call basis. Negotiations are currently ongoing with Union representatives to remove this outdated system of deployment. These negotiations are currently at an advanced stage and it is hoped

that the on-call element will be removed from the Belmullet roster in the coming weeks with the addition of 2 staff. This will in turn further advance the cover provided in the Mayo area.

Station	Number of crews Day	Number of crews Night
Castlebar	3 (Mon, Tue, Wed Fri, Sat, Sun) 4 (Thur)	2
Belmullet	1	1 (Mon, Fri, Sat, Sun) On Call (Tue, Wed, Thur)
Ballina	2	1
Mulranny	1 0(on Thursday)	1

JJ McGowan, Chief Ambulance Officer - West

W100Q3344	Can I have an update on the compliment of Occupational Therapist in Donegal, where they are based and how many vacancies are currently within the service?	Cllr G McMonagle
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These are the current posts aligned to Primary Care services in Donegal:

- 20 WTE Senior Occupational Therapists - Provision of service to Adults in Primary Care to 4 Community Health Care Networks in Donegal. Currently 5 WTE vacancies
- 8 WTE Staff Grade Occupational Therapists - Provision of service to Adults in Primary Care to 4 Community Health Care Networks in Donegal. Currently 4 WTE vacancies
- 1 WTE Clinical Specialist Occupational Therapist - Provision of service to children 0 - 18 years. Based in Letterkenny North Team
- 4 WTE Senior Occupational Therapists Paediatric Primary Care - Provision of service to children 0 - 18 years to 4 Community Healthcare Networks
- 8.4 WTE Staff Grade Occupational Therapists Paediatric Primary Care - Provision of service to children 0 - 18 years to 4 Community Healthcare Networks. Currently 3 WTE vacancies

These are the current posts aligned to Older Person Services in Donegal:

- 1 WTE Senior OT working in the Falls Service - covering all of County Donegal
- 1 WTE Senior OT working in the ICPOP team - covering all of County Donegal
- 0.8 WTE Senior OT working in the Memory Technology Resource Room service - covering all of County Donegal

There are currently 4 posts assigned to disability services in Donegal:

- 1 WTE Senior OT in Intellectual Disability Services - Provision of Services to Adult Residential Facilities in Donegal. Vacant since March 2022
- 1 WTE Senior OT in Community Neuro-rehabilitation Team & Acquired Brain Injury - Provision of services to Adults aged 18 - 64 years - covering all of County Donegal
- 1 WTE Senior OT in Specialist Seating & Wheelchair Service - Provision of Services to Children & Adults in Donegal with complex seating needs - covering all of County Donegal
- Senior OT (Agency) 0.4 WTE - Provision of Services as part of De-congregation Project - to assist with Adults transitioning to alternative residential/living environment

The current post aligned to Palliative Care Services in Donegal:

1 WTE Senior Occupational Therapist - Provision of service to both adult community (in Letterkenny area) and inpatient services in Donegal Hospice

There are additional OT's within the Children's Disability Network Teams – information re same can be obtained from Disability Services.

I have also populated the information above into tabular form (excluding CDNT):

Division	Grade	WTE	Service Provision	Areas Covered	Current Vacancies
Primary Care Donegal	Senior OT	20.0	Adults	4 Community Healthcare Networks across Donegal	5.0
	Staff Grade OT	8.0	Adults		4.0
	Clinical Specialist OT	1.0	Children 0 - 18 years		-
	Senior OT - Paediatrics	4.0	Children 0 - 18 years		-
	Staff Grade OT - Paediatrics	8.4	Children 0 - 18 years		3.0
Older Persons Services	Senior OT	1.0	Falls Service	Across Donegal	-
	Senior OT	1.0	ICPOP Team		-
	Senior OT	0.8	Memory Technology Resource Room Service		-
Disability Services	Senior OT	-	Intellectual Disability Services	Adult Residential Facilities in Donegal	1.0 (March 2022)
	Senior OT	1.0	Community Neuro-rehabilitation Team & Acquired Brain Injury	Across Donegal	-
	Senior OT	1.0	Specialist Seating & Wheelchair Service	Provision of Services to Children & Adults in Donegal with complex seating needs across Donegal	-
	Senior OT	0.4	De-congregation Project	Assist with Adults transitioning to alternative residential/living environment across Donegal	-
Palliative Care Services	Senior OT	1.0	Adult Community & Inpatient Services in Donegal Hospice	Letterkenny Area	-

Dermot Monaghan, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare Organisation, (Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Sligo)

W100Q3345	Can I have an update on the Roll out of the Government's Covid Payment to Staff in the health service in recognition of their service during the covid pandemic, what Staff are entitled to the payment and when will the Payment be made to all qualifying staff?	Cllr G McMonagle
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More than 60,000 staff across statutory and Section 38 agencies have been paid the bonus payment up to Friday 24th June.

In terms of the number of staff eligible, we cannot give an exact figure but expect the figure to be in excess of 100,000 nationally and have costed on that basis. The validated figure will not be known until afterwards.

Within the Saolta Group payments are being made in accordance with payroll periods and will take a number of weeks to complete.

T. Canavan, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group

W100Q3346	Are there any Plans to return a full time Rheumatology clinic to Letterkenny University Hospital?	Cllr G McMonagle
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The Rheumatology service in Letterkenny University Hospital provides outpatient clinics and in-patient reviews and is supported by visiting consultants from Sligo University Hospital. These clinics take place every Thursday morning in the Out-Patients Department, Scally Place, Letterkenny.

The Consultants reviews ward consults in Letterkenny University Hospital before starting their scheduled outpatient.

Eight new patients referrals are scheduled to the Clinic. In addition, the registered Advanced Nurse Practitioner visits the site as part of the visiting Team each week and sees 4 new patients at the Clinic and reviews further patients by phone. In addition she is available for advice and teaching to patients.

A. Cosgrove, COO, Saolta University Health Care Group

W100Q3347	Is there any help Funding wise that the HSE/CHO1 could provide for the Donegal Rape Crisis Centre who are dealing with an increasing number of Sexual Assaults and are solely dependent on Charitable and voluntary donations?	Cllr G McMonagle
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Funding allocations for the Donegal Rape Crisis Centre moved to National TUSLA in 2014. TUSLA now hold the remit for funding Women's Services in the area. The only funding stream within the HSE currently available is through National Lottery. However, this has now closed for 2022 and no application was submitted from the Rape Crisis Centre.

Dermot Monaghan, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare Organisation, (Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Sligo)

W100Q3348	Has the HSE West Saolta group any further update on the new elective hospital and A&E from our previous meeting in May?	Cllr D Killilea
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The proposed new ED and Women & Children's development at UHG is a large and extremely complex project, requiring a number of enabling works contracts to be completed on site before the project can commence. This is a project in excess of €100m and is subject to the full rigours of the latest Public Spending Code as published by DPER. A Strategic Assessment Report has been submitted to National HSE in April 2022 and the PBC was submitted to DPER in May 2022. This project will require Government approval on the PBC and at two other project milestones prior to any contractor procurement or construction. In addition the project may be subject to an independent review and assurance mechanism as indicated in the Public Spending Code.

Once the PBC is approved, we will move towards the detailed design and tendering process. We will be able to provide a date for the planning application for the new ED and Women & Children's development at UHG once that is complete.

There is no further update on the new elective hospital at this time.

T. Canavan, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group

W100Q3349	Is there any further update on the diagnostic services for Tuam from our May meeting?	Cllr D Killilea
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HSE is engaging with The PPP company to develop a solution for delivery of the diagnostics at the Primary Care Centre in Tuam.

Joe Hoare, Assistant National Director, Capital & Estates

W100Q3350	Can the HSE West confirm the time that diagnostic services are available at UHG – what changes if any, are being made to make these a full time service 24/7?	Cllr D Killiea
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1. LABORATORY GUH WORKING HOURS

Routine samples arriving after the stated deadlines will be processed on the next routine working day.

An on-call system operates outside normal hours for emergency work i.e. non-deferrable tests necessary for decisions regarding patient treatment. Refer to the "On-Call/Emergency Service" section of this manual.

Department	Routine Hours	Deadline for sample in Lab
Specimen Reception	09:00 – 20:00 h	19:45 h
Blood & Tissue Establishment	08:00 – 20:00 h Mon–Fri	16:00 h
	10:00 – 13:00 h Sat	11:30 h
Clinical Biochemistry	08:00 – 20:00 h Mon-Fri	17:00 h Mon-Fri
	10:00 – 13:00 h Sat	12:30 h Sat
Clinical Immunology	08:00 – 17:00 h Mon-Fri	16:00 h
Anatomic Pathology	08:00 – 18:00 h Mon-Fri	16:30 h Mon-Fri
	09:00 - 12:30 h Sat	11:30 h Sat
Haematology	08:00 – 20:00 h Mon-Fri	17:00 h for GUH samples
	10:00 – 13:00 h Sat	16:30 h for all others
		12:30 h Sat
Medical Microbiology	08:00 – 20:00 h Mon-Fri	16:30 h Mon-Fri
	09:30 – 12:30 h Sat	12:00 h Sat
Virology	08:00 – 17:30 h Mon-Fri	16:00 h Mon-Fri

Radiology Services

Open 24/7

Core hours 08.00 – 18.00 Monday to Friday

Outside of core hours there is an emergency service (On call)

The lung function service is based in Unit 8 MPUH operates daily Monday to Friday – 7.15 to 5 pm

The Cardiac Investigations operate Monday to Friday 8.00 am to 6.00.

They also provide an on-call service to the Cath Lab / other emergencies from 6 pm to 8.00 am during the week and at weekends and bank holidays.

The following are the Vascular Laboratory Hours:

Day	Opening	Close
Mon:	08.00	– 18.00
Tue:	08.00	– 18.00
Wed:	08.00	– 17.45
Thu:	08.00	– 17.30
Fri:	08.00	– 16.00

A. Cosgrove, COO, Saolta University Health Care Group

W100Q3351	Can I be provided with the full list of GPs registered to practice in County Clare, to include names, practice address, contact email and phone number.	Cllr C Murphy
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A list of all General Practitioners (GPs) can be found on the HSE Website on – www2.hse.ie/services/find-a-gp
The details for the GPs located in Co. Clare can be found by searching under the County tab which will display the name and contact details for the GPs listed.

Attached please find a list of the GPs in Co. Clare, who are contracted with the HSE to provide services to Medical Card (GMS) patients but who would also provide GP Services to their private patients from their surgeries/practices.

Please note that there are currently two GP practices on the attached which are being managed by the HSE under a Doctor in Charge process i.e. the HSE is managing the practice and has a locum doctor, practice nurse and secretarial support in place in the practice.

Name of GP	Surgery Name & Address	Telephone Number
Liam Glynn	Clareville House, Ballyvaughan, Co. Clare	065 7077035
Anna Linnane	Ballyvaughan Primary Care Centre, Ballyvaughan, Co. Clare	065 7077035
Jocelyn Ellis	Carrigaholt Health Centre, Carrigaholt, Co. Clare	065 9058205
Claire McMahon	Saffron & Blue Medical Centre, Clare Abbey Primary Health Centre, Clarecastle, Co. Clare	065 6829719
Paraic Meaney	Burren Medical Centre, Market St., Corofin, Co. Clare	065 6837604
Marese Mannion	Burren Medical Centre, Market St., Corofin, Co. Clare	065 6837604
Marie Finn	Centric Health, Francis St., Ennis, Co. Clare	065 6868140
Caroline Anne Murphy	Centric Health, Francis St., Ennis, Co. Clare	065 6868140
Conor Hanrahan	Centric Health, Francis St., Ennis, Co. Clare	065 6868140
Eimear Kelly	Centric Health, Francis St., Ennis, Co. Clare	065 6868140
Sean Smyth	Centric Health, Francis St., Ennis, Co. Clare	065 6868140
John Boyle	Centric Health, Francis St., Ennis, Co. Clare	065 6868140
Brian Hall	Centric Health, Francis St., Ennis, Co. Clare	065 6868140
Emma Kearney	Centric Health, Francis St., Ennis, Co. Clare	065 6868140
Eoin Curtin	Abbey Medical Centre, 6 Westgate Business Park, Kilrush Road, Ennis, Co. Clare	065 6829975
Edel Twomey	Abbey Medical Centre, 6 Westgate Business Park, Kilrush Road, Ennis, Co. Clare	065 6829975
Finbarr Fitzpatrick	Abbey Medical Centre, 6 Westgate Business Park, Kilrush Road, Ennis, Co. Clare	065 6829975
Siobhan Twohig	Abbey Medical Centre, 6 Westgate Business Park, Kilrush Road, Ennis, Co. Clare	065 6829975
Anthony Cox	Fergus Medical Centre, 2 St. Anthony's Tce. Ennis, Co. Clare	065 6842166
Denise Crowley (Cox)	Fergus Medical Centre, 2 St. Anthony's Tce. Ennis, Co. Clare	065 6842166
Dermot Boyle	The Elm Medical Centre, Gort Road Shopping Centre, Ennis, Co. Clare	065 6822333
John McCarthy	79 O'Connell St., Ennis, Co. Clare	065 6844455
Conor Fanning	Sonas Medical Centre, Station Road, Ennis, Co. Clare	065 6848048
Aoife Fanning	Sonas Medical Centre, Station Road, Ennis, Co. Clare	065 6848048
Patrick F. Bugler	Ard na Greine, Ennis, Co. Clare	065 6828610
Bruce O'Donnell	Riverwalk Medical Centre, 21 Parnell St., Ennis, Co. Clare	065 6822575
Mary O'Brien	Roslevan Medical Centre, Roslevan Shopping Centre, Tulla Road, Ennis, Co. Clare	065 6849999
Niamh Meaney	Ennistymon Medical Centre, Main St., Ennistymon, Co. Clare	065 7071207

Mary Bernadette Lynch	2 Ryagan House, Shantraud, Killaloe, Co. Clare	061 374333
Michael Carmody	East Clinic, Killaloe, Co. Clare	061 376349
Marie Quigney	Kildysart Health Centre, Kildysart, Co. Clare	065 6832012
Blaithnaid Regan	The Surgery, Chapel St., Kilkee, Co. Clare	065 9056400
Abdul Rashid	26 Francis St., Kilrush, Co. Clare	065 9051581
Mary O'Sullivan	Banklawn House, Toler Street, Kilrush, Co. Clare	065 9051374
Ann Forde	Banklawn House, Toler Street, Kilrush, Co. Clare	065 9051374
Michael Kelleher	Ennistymon Road, Lahinch, Co. Clare	065 7081234
John Duncan	Medical Centre, Station Road, Lahinch, Co. Clare	065 7081442
James Collins	The Medical Centre, St. Brendan's Road, Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare	065 7074184
Maura O'Meara	Sli Liag Ard, Ballard Road, Miltown Malbay, Co. Clare	065 7079011
Maura O'Meara	Main Street, Doonbeg, Co. Clare	065 9055900
Jim Galvin	Medical Centre, Miltown Malbay, Co. Clare	065 7084494
Dympna O'Dwyer	Medical Centre, Spanish Point Road, Miltown Malbay, Co. Clare	065 7084494
Colum Gavin	Saffron & Blue Medical Centre, Carrigoran House, Newmarket on Fergus, Co. Clare	061 368726
Conor McGee	Scariff Medical Centre, Scariff, Co. Clare	061 921123
Genevieve McGuire	Scariff Medical Centre, Scariff, Co. Clare	061 921123
Michelle McNamara	Scariff Medical Centre, Scariff, Co. Clare	061 921123
Ronan Flynn	22 Tullyvarraga Hill, Shannon, Co. Clare	061 362903
Peter Flynn	9 Killian Park, Shannon, Co. Clare	061 364274
Yvonne Williams	Shannon Medical Centre, Bru na Sionna, Shannon Town Centre, Shannon, Co. Clare	061 705000
Kieran Hughes	Kilmurry Road, Sixmilebridge, Co. Clare	061 369722
Padraic Quinn	The Bridge Surgery, Sixmilebridge, Co. Clare	061 369369
Martin Fitzgerald	Health Centre, Tulla House, Tulla, Co. Clare	065 6835150
Richmond Medical Centre (Retirement of Dr. Michael Harty)*	Richmond Medical Centre, Kilmihil, Co. Clare (Doctor in Charge since 01/03/2022)	065 9050345
Damien Barry (on long term sick leave)*	Level 1 Quay Mills, Francis St., Kilrush, Co. Clare (Doctor in Charge since May 2021)	065 9062934
*Doctor in Charge i.e. both of these GP practices are currently being managed by the HSE. The HSE have a locum GP, Practice Nurse and secretarial support in place.		

Maria Bridgeman, Chief Officer, HSE Mid West Community Healthcare

W100Q3352	Can I be provided with a) the names and an explanation of the classifications used by the NAS with regards to prioritizing the urgency of calls to 112/999, b) the numbers of each of those classifications for ambulance attendances at UHL for the year so far, c) a breakdown from the UHL group, by percentage of those classifications, of the ambulance attendances to UHL that end up requiring a bed.	Cllr C Murphy
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Names and an explanation of the classifications used by the NAS

Echo	Life-Threatening Cardiac Or Respiratory Arrest
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Delta	Life-Threatening Other Than Cardiac Or Respiratory Arrest
Charlie	Serious Not Life-Threatening – Immediate
Bravo	Serious Not Life-Threatening – Urgent
Alpha	Non-serious or non-life-threatening
Omega	Minor illness or injury

JJ McGowan, Chief Ambulance Officer – West

The below table outlines the number of patients brought by ambulance to University Hospital Limerick in 2021 who were admitted to an inpatient bed at University Hospital Limerick and across our other hospital sites. Please note, UL Hospitals Group does not record this data as per the NAS classifications.

Admissions	UHL	Croom Orthopaedic Hospital	Ennis Hospital	Nenagh Hospital	St John's Hospitals
January	718	1	24	15	16
February	554	-	15	14	15
March	616	3	23	18	25
April	589	1	26	20	28
May	683	1	22	13	17
June	642	-	47	24	35
July	722	-	34	19	18
August	722	1	38	25	23
September	751	1	25	20	20
October	730	1	34	15	36
November	741	1	36	12	43
December	877	4	27	18	23

C. Cowan CEO UL Hospitals Group

W100Q3353	Can I be provided with an update on the Pathfinder program, whether it is planned to roll it out in West Clare and if so, when?	Cllr C Murphy
<p>The Pathfinder care model, for patients over 65 years old in the Limerick region, is on course to progress to commencement in Q3 2022.</p> <p>We are currently at the recruitment phase with University Hospital Limerick of the Health & Social Care Professions (4 WTEs) who will work as part of this collaborative model with 3 NAS Advanced Paramedics.</p> <p>The skills match meetings are currently underway in June & July to recruit the NAS APs into the programme.</p> <p>Previous research shows that this very successful care model, which assesses and treats circa two-thirds of the patients referred to the service, from the 999 NAS NEOC, in their own homes as opposed to conveying them to a Hospital (where it is clinically appropriate to treat the patient and follow them up at home).</p>		
JJ McGowan, Chief Ambulance Officer - West		
W100Q3354	How many Clinical Nurse Manager vacancies are there currently in UHG	Cllr M O'Connor
<p>The current outstanding CNM positions is 26. All of these are permanent posts and cover a wide range of areas across CNM 1, CNM2 and CNM3 roles. These cover wards, patient flow, clinical facilitators, ED, and OPD services.</p>		
A. Cosgrove, COO, Saolta University Health Care Group		

W100Q3355	How many Staff Nurse vacancies are there currently in UHG	Cllr M O'Connor
<p>Current outstanding staff nurse positions is 141. All the staff nurses vacancies are across all areas of UHG and MPUH and these figures do not include staff members currently on maternity leave.</p> <p>A. Cosgrove, COO, Saolta University Health Care Group</p>		
W100Q3356	When will the land zoned Recreation and Amenity (used as temporary Helipad at GUH) be returned to Galway City Council/Shantalla Park	Cllr M O'Connor
<p>The options in respect of helipad facilities adjacent to University Hospital Galway both in the immediate future and in the longer term are currently under review. The HSE intends to re-engage with Galway City Council in the coming months and put forward proposals for consideration. An update can be provided in due course.</p> <p>Joe Hoare, Assistant National Director, Capital & Estates</p>		
W100Q3357	When will plans for a new Emergency Department/Bus corridor at UHG be available	Cllr M O'Connor
<p>The proposed new ED and Women & Children's development at UHG is a large and extremely complex project, requiring a number of enabling works contracts to be completed on site before the project can commence. This is a project in excess of €100m and is subject to the full rigours of the latest Public Spending Code as published by DPER. A Strategic Assessment Report has been submitted to National HSE in April 2022 and the PBC was submitted to DPER in May 2022. This project will require Government approval on the PBC and at two other project milestones prior to any contractor procurement or construction. In addition the project may be subject to an independent review and assurance mechanism as indicated in the Public Spending Code.</p> <p>Once the PBC is approved, we will move towards the detailed design and tendering process. We will be able to provide a date for the planning application for the new ED and Women & Children's development at UHG once that is complete.</p> <p>Plans for Bus corridor at UHG be available</p> <p>Saolta/ HSE support the objective of a public transport route through the hospital. The approval for the ED and Women & Children's development at UHG project through the new Public Spending Code process determines when it is time for HSE Estates (West) and the Local Authority to re-engage and progress the proposed bus corridor at UHG.</p> <p>T. Canavan, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group/ Joe Hoare, Assistant National Director, Capital & Estates</p>		
W100Q3358	Can the HSE inform members of this Forum if planning permission was sought by the HSE for the extra car parking spaces at Roscommon County Hospital.	Cllr T Ward
<p>The intention is that additional car parking spaces at RUH would be sought as part of the planning application process for the proposed 20 bed Regional Rehabilitation Unit at RUH. The original DOH/ HSE approval was for a Phase 1 project that included the specialist rehabilitation Day Services and a 10-bed inpatient ward. However, following review of draft Stage 1 report, the decision was taken nationally to proceed with full 20-beds and the day services as part of the Phase 1 project.</p> <p>An update of the Site Spatial Plan for RCH is required in tandem with the update of the Rehabilitation Project, Stage 1 report. This will assess the impact of the additional spatial requirements including parking. HSE Estates are re-engaging with the Design Team to update both reports that will accompany the submission request for a capital approval to progress to Stage 2a, in line with HSE capital approval process and the Public Spending Code.</p> <p>Joe Hoare, Assistant National Director, Capital & Estates</p>		
W100Q3359	Can the HSE give update on the proposed 50 bedroom unit that is to be built at the Sacred Heart Hospital Roscommon.	Cllr T Ward
<p>The design for the new 50 bed unit at Sacred Heart Home is progressing well. Planning permission has been lodged to Roscommon County Council, with final grant of planning permission expected before end of August 2022, pending</p>		

no further information requests from the Roscommon Co. Co. The design team is advancing to project Stage 2C - detailed design. It is anticipated subject to HSE approval that the project will be ready to Tender to the market for a works contractor Q1 2023.

Joe Hoare, Assistant National Director, Capital & Estates

W100Q3360	Can the HSE inform members of the Forum the current waiting times for children waiting for Assessments for Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language Therapy and Psychology Services in South Roscommon area and the rest of County Roscommon.	Cllr T Ward
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Mental Health:

There are no waiting lists for individual therapy assessment in Roscommon CAMHS.

In April 2022 published waiting list details are as follows-there are 108 referrals awaiting an initial assessment appointment with Roscommon CAMHS, broken down as follows

- 0-3mths= 43
- 3-6 mths= 44
- 6-9 mths =21

All referrals to CAMHS are reviewed and prioritised on the basis of clinical necessity. We have an active waiting list management system, regularly reviewing clinical priority of referrals.

Primary Care:

The Longest waiting times by Therapist for children in Primary Care listed below:-

Therapy	Children Waiting Times South Roscommon	Children Waiting List County Roscommon
SLT	16 weeks	16 weeks
OT	69 weeks	86 weeks
Psychology	394 weeks	381 weeks

Disability Services:

Children and young people with complex needs in South Roscommon receive their services from Community Disability Network Teams (CDNT) 8 (East Galway and South Roscommon) with the remainder of County Roscommon receives their services from CDNT 9. Wait times for these teams are currently not recorded per discipline but are recorded as per national Key Performance indicators (waiting times to initial contact by a team member) since Children's Teams reconfigured in October 2021.

Listed below is the latest key metric data available up to end of May 2022 for CDNTs 8 and 9.

Metric	CDNT 8	CDNT 9
Average wait in months (since referral to the reconfigured CDNT) for an initial contact @ month end	4	3-6mths
No. of children waiting 0-3 months for an contact @ month end	23	31
No. of children waiting 4-6 months for an contact @ month end	0	78
No. of children waiting 6-12 months for an contact @ month end	0	125
No. of children waiting over 12 months for an contact @ month end	0	0

Breda Crehan-Roche, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare West

W100Q3361	Can the Forum give a breakdown of the number of young people in County Roscommon who are waiting for appointments with CAMHS, the length of time they have been waiting, what steps are being taken by the HSE to address the waiting lists and what safeguards are in place to ensure they are receiving adequate and safe care?	Cllr T Ward
<p>We have had to commence a waiting list for Community Healthcare West CAMHS, due to unprecedented post-pandemic demand which is further compounded by the challenges in recruiting CAMHS specialists.</p> <p>In April 2022 published waiting list details are as follows-there are 108 referrals awaiting an initial assessment appointment with Roscommon CAMHS, broken down as follows</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0-3mths=43 • 3-6 mths= 44 • 6-9 mths =21 <p>All referrals to CAMHS are reviewed and prioritised on the basis of clinical necessity. We have an active waiting list management system, regularly reviewing clinical priority of referrals.</p> <p>We have received funding as part of the national CAMHS waiting list initiative and we are allocating this to recruit experienced CAMHS professionals (0.4 WTE CAMHS Consultant and a 0.5 WTECAMHS Staff Nurse) and expect them in place by the end of June 2022. We plan to address a substantial element of the existing waiting list over the next 6 months.</p> <p>We continue to advocate for funding to address the demands within the CAMHS services.</p> <p>Breda Crehan-Roche, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare West</p>		
W100Q3362	Local community health and care provision interests (eg: V de P) have identified the old Health Centre Binion Rd. Clonmany as a potential social housing/apartment source. Will the HSE respond positively to local interests to explore potential additional housing accommodation provision at this vacant property?	Cllr A Doherty
<p>The HSE have an old Health Centre in Clonmany. This property has been surplus to requirements for a number of years. Property Management are currently perfecting title with a view to, in the first instance, putting the property on the intra state register to allow for formal consideration by other Government bodies.</p> <p>If no interest is received, the next step is to put the property on the open market and approval in principle has been secured from Property Review Group in this regard.</p> <p>Over the years Property Management have received requests from local interested groups, however the above process will have to be gone through in the first instance once title is in order.</p> <p>Dermot Monaghan, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare Organisation, (Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Sligo)</p>		
W100Q3363	Please provide the following updates on PUH – Progress on construction of 50 bed unit and progress on undercroft works to accommodate second CT scanner with start and completion dates.	Cllr E Francis Parsons
<p>PUH Response: 50 Bedded Replacement Ward Block Construction work commenced in June 2022 on the 50 Bedded Replacement Ward Block.</p> <p>Under-croft/CT Scanner Building works are at an advanced stage to accommodate the replacement CT scanner in this area and the CT is due for delivery and commissioning at the end of August 2022/early September 2022.</p> <p>A. Cosgrove, COO, Saolta University Health Care Group</p>		

W100Q3364	Please provide the following updates on PUH - Update on the status of the filling of Consultant posts in PUH since Feb 2021 (W92Q2917) when there were 8 Consultant posts filled on a temporary basis in Surgery, Medicine, Emergency Medicine and Anaesthesia.	Cllr E Francis Parsons
<p>There are currently 6 Consultant posts filled on a temporary basis – these posts are in Obstetrics/Gynaecology, Medicine, Emergency Medicine, Surgery and Anaesthesia.</p> <p>These posts are at various stages of approval at National Level with one of the above posts awaiting interview date and another advertised via the Public Appointments Service.</p> <p>Posts are advertised locally and internationally.</p> <p>In addition, the majority of posts at Portiuncula University Hospital have a scheduled commitment to Galway University Hospital to make the posts more attractive.</p> <p>We consider posts on a full-time basis, job sharing and reduced hours.</p>		
<p>A. Cosgrove, COO, Saolta University Health Care Group</p>		
W100Q3365	What is the statutory timeframe for Mental Health Commission Inspections of Community Mental Health Staffed Residence? Date of last Inspection of Riverside House Ballinasloe. Please provide details of current staffing, including current Consultant Psychiatrist input and numbers of residents and day attendees. Details of complaints logged relating to Riverview House years 2021 / 2022. What is the standard operating procedure for addressing complaints and concerns regarding safety and appropriate supervision in the community of attendees to this service.	Cllr E Francis Parsons
<p>The Mental Health Commission run a three - year programme of Inspections of Community residents which are 24/7 Supervised Residences.</p> <p>Riverview inspected on the 16th August 2017. Please note Covid-19 has impacted on this.</p> <p>Current staffing including current Consultant Psychiatrist input and numbers of residents and day attendees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 CNM11's, 7 staff nurses, 6 MTAs. • Weekly Multi-Disciplinary Team meeting led by Consultant Psychiatrist. • 5 residents and 13 outreach attendees <p>Complaints were logged on the 11/7/2021, 25/7/2021, 12/8/2021 and 21/8/2021. These were dealt with at local level within 24 hours.</p> <p>Complaints are dealt with under either Your Service Your Say or through the Clinical Complaints Committee. Where complaints or concerns are identified in relation to a specific service users the standard practice is to review the service user and the relevant risk assessments following any incident or events. These reviews are carried out by either the Non Consultant Hospital Doctor or the consultant and the review includes consideration of the risks for the service user and the community. As the residents of Riverview are not detained persons under the Mental Health Act 2001, their freedoms and rights have to be respected and this can give rise to incidents involving persons in the community over which the service has no control.</p> <p>We endeavour to address all issues in relation to complaints.</p>		
<p>Breda Crehan-Roche, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare West</p>		
W100Q3366	International Men's Health Week in June aims to heighten health awareness, support healthy lifestyles and encourage early detection and	Cllr E Francis Parsons

	treatment of disease in men and boys. What actions are being carried out in CHO2/ nationally with regard to raising awareness of testicular cancer detection in young men? What specific resources are available to provide ongoing support to men living with prostate cancer in CHO2/ nationally?	
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Testicular Cancer

Testicular cancer is relatively rare, accounting for 1.3% of new cancer cases in men in Ireland, equating to approximately 165 new cases annually.¹ Median age group at diagnosis of testicular cancer is 30-34 years, and >90% of cases occur in men aged <50 years.² Testicular cancer is typically diagnosed at early stage disease, and survival rates are very high. Testicular cancer has the best 5-year survival among common invasive cancers in Ireland, at 96%.³ Testicular cancer is not a common cause of cancer death in men, accounting for an average of seven deaths per annum between the years 2016-2018.⁴

Initiatives undertaken by the HSE National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP) towards improving the early diagnosis of cancer include the development of a suite of resources, including posters, leaflets and factsheets, to raise awareness of the signs and symptoms of cancer and to encourage people to contact their GP immediately if they develop signs or symptoms that could indicate cancer. These resources include a [testicular cancer information leaflet](#) to educate men on the signs and symptoms of testicular cancer and how to perform testicular self-examination. This resource is freely available on the NCCP website, and has been approved by the National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA) for Plain English⁵.

Healthy lifestyles and early detection of cancer for men and boys

The NCCP have undertaken and continue to support healthy lifestyles and encourage early detection and treatment of disease in men and boys. This includes

- Member of the Men's Health Forum group organising activity for Men's Health week annually
- Delivery of education sessions specifically on risk reduction and early detection of common male cancers, most recently with the Irish Institute of Pharmacy 'Men and Cancer in Ireland' webinar on the 1st June

The following resources are available to provide ongoing support to men living with prostate cancer in CHO2/nationally.

Prostate Cancer⁶

Prostate cancer is the leading cause of cancer in men⁶ (excluding skin cancer). Nearly 3,500 men are diagnosed with prostate cancer in Ireland each year. The cumulative lifetime risk (to age 74) of prostate cancer diagnosis is 12.5% and accounts for 29.2% of all invasive cancers in Ireland. For prostate cancer, there was a marked increase in five-year survival from 66% to 92% between 1994-1998 and 2009-2013.

5 year net survival

Diagnosed	Net survival (age standardised)	95% confidence interval
1994-1998	65.8%	63.6-67.9%
1999-2003	82.3%	81.1-83.6%
2004-2008	91.0%	90.0-92.0%
2009-2013	91.5%	90.4-92.7%

*10 year net survival (hybrid analysis):

88.7% (86.8-90.6%)

Initiatives undertaken by the HSE National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP) towards improving the early diagnosis of cancer include the following:

- National Prostate Cancer GP Referral Guidelines
<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/5/cancer/profinfo/resources/gpreferrals/nccp-prostate-cancer-gp-referral-guideline.pdf>
- Electronic Prostate Cancer GP E-Referral
<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/5/cancer/profinfo/resources/gpelectronic/>

The graph below shows the weekly prostate cancer GP e-referral trends for the three years 2019 to date.

- National Diagnosis, staging and treatment guidelines,
<https://assets.gov.ie/11609/f4bac55a659a4b0c876386f55d88fc9d.pdf>
- [Early diagnosis of prostate cancer fact sheet](#)
- [Having your prostate checked: what you should know](#)
- Booklet on Information for men on sexual wellbeing after pelvic cancer treatment
<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/5/cancer/profinfo/resources/booklets/pelvic%20cancer.pdf>

Community Cancer Support Centres are in most local communities and provide support services for cancer patients, their families and carers. They have a wide range of individual and group programmes and supports available including counselling and psychological support, manual lymphatic drainage, physical activity programmes, survivorship programmes and complementary therapies. The Community Cancer Support Centres have adapted to continue providing their services and programmes remotely during the COVID pandemic. They are currently open and delivering face-to-face services. There are approximately 50 Community Cancer Support Centres throughout Ireland, all of whom provide professionally delivered services to cancer patients and their families free of charge. A list of the support centres in each area can be found using the following link: <https://www.cancer.ie/local-support>

Survivorship Programmes, including the Cancer Thriving and Surviving (CTS) Programme, help patients with the transition from active treatment to living well with and beyond cancer. The CTS Programme helps and empowers patients as they finish treatment and transition and move into the survivorship period. The programme includes sessions that address the recovery of self-confidence, adjustment to a changed self, and confidence to self-manage cancer-related problems and to promote recovery of well-being and successful transition to survivorship, following a cancer diagnosis. The programme has been adapted to run remotely during the COVID pandemic.

LACES (Life and Cancer- Enhancing Survivorship) is a signposting and information workshop for cancer patients, developed by the NCCP and ICS. It runs weekly in cancer centres and is open to all patients (over 18 years) who have completed their treatment i.e. radiation therapy, surgery, chemotherapy and for advanced cancer patients. The LACES workshop allows patients to access appropriate information and signposting to improve their quality of life after cancer. The focus is on health and well-being, enhancing the use of community supports and survivorship programmes.

NCCP Prostate Cancer Survivorship Self-directed follow-up pilot

The NCCP have commenced the development of a prostate cancer survivorship self-directed follow up pilot, with three locations identified. The provision of an integrated model of care that uses risk stratified follow-up and surveillance, and supported self-management pathways for prostate cancer survivors. This will ensure patients have standardised follow-up and surveillance protocols for routine follow up, access to survivorship programmes and support and rapid re-access to acute services if needed.

Cancer Prevention and Awareness

Initiatives undertaken by the HSE National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP) towards improving the early diagnosis of cancer include the development of a suite of resources, including posters, leaflets and factsheets, to raise awareness of the signs and symptoms of cancer and to encourage people to contact their GP without delay if they develop signs or symptoms that could indicate cancer. These resources include a [testicular cancer information leaflet](#) to educate men on the signs and symptoms of testicular cancer and how to perform testicular self-examination. This resource is freely available on the NCCP website, and has been approved by the National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA) for Plain English⁷.

Healthy lifestyles and early detection of cancer for men and boys

The NCCP have undertaken and continue to support healthy lifestyles and encourage early detection and treatment of disease in men and boys. This includes

- Member of the Men's Health Forum group organising activity for Men's Health week annually
- Delivery of education sessions specifically on risk reduction and early detection of common male cancers, most recently with the Irish Institute of Pharmacy 'Men and Cancer in Ireland' webinar on the 1st June

Cancer Information Resources:

Provision of resources specific to male cancers including

- o [It's never too late to quit smoking male leaflet](#)
 - o [Being smoke free can reduce your risk of cancer: male cancers](#)
 - o [Drinking less can reduce your risk of cancer: male cancers](#)
 - o [Skin cancer prevention resources, with a particular focus on male outdoor workers](#)
 - o [Know the signs, spot cancer early video \(male focus\)](#)
 - o [Early diagnosis of prostate cancer fact sheet](#)
 - o [Having your prostate checked: what you should know](#)
- The NCCP co-ordinates the Irish Cancer Prevention Network (ICPN) which includes the voluntary sector stakeholders who also play a key role in raising awareness of cancer signs and symptoms. The ICPN work together to deliver cancer risk reduction initiatives. For example, information on testicular cancer is freely available on the Irish Cancer Society and Marie Keating Foundation websites.

In particular to CHO2 a pilot of SunSmart lesson plans was undertaken in 2021 and now is being piloted in other CHO's. This was delivered to boys and girls in the area. A strong relationship with CHO2 Health and Wellbeing and the NCCP is growing with plans for future work in cancer risk reduction and early diagnosis.

References:

¹ https://www.ncri.ie/sites/ncri/files/pubs/NCRI_Annual%20Report_2021.pdf

¹ <https://www.ncri.ie/sites/ncri/files/factsheets/Factsheet%20testis.pdf>

¹ https://www.ncri.ie/sites/ncri/files/pubs/NCRI_Annual%20Report_2021.pdf

¹ https://www.ncri.ie/sites/ncri/files/pubs/NCRI_Annual%20Report_2021.pdf

¹ <https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/5/cancer/patient/leaflets/>

⁶ <https://www.ncri.ie/sites/ncri/files/factsheets/Factsheet%20prostate.pdf>

⁷ <https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/5/cancer/patient/leaflets/testicular%20cancer%20leaflet.pdf>

Professor Risteárd O' Laoide, National Director, National Cancer Control Programme

W100Q3367	Will the HSE respond to the apparent ongoing appointment difficulties at the Oncology Unit at LUH? Are appointment delays/postponements caused as a result of staffing issues or bed availability matters?	Cllr A Doherty
<p>The total number of patients who received a new parenteral systemic therapy in April was 37. The guidelines for receiving a new parenteral systemic therapy in the day ward setting is that patients should receive treatment within 15 working days as per National Cancer Key Performance Indicators.</p> <p>Not all of these patients were seen within the guidelines due to a number of different reasons, some of the patients were not medically fit to commence their treatment, and there were capacity issues within the day services unit. Currently, the facilities department at LUH are working on plans for the reconfiguration of the existing Oncology Day Unit to increase capacity and a Business Case has been submitted to Saolta to extend the working hours of the Haematology/Oncology Day Ward. The NCCP are aware of the capacity issues within the unit at LUH.</p> <p>The Saolta Executive have strategically identified the requirement for new infrastructure for the Cancer Programme for region in the National Development Plan 2021 – 2030 which includes an Cancer Ambulatory Centre for LUH.</p> <p>T. Canavan, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group</p>		
W100Q3368	What current actions are the HSE undertaking to locate and provide an alternative accommodation in the Carndonagh area for the provision of day services to clients of Older Persons Services?	Cllr A Doherty
<p>The day hospital at Carndonagh Community Hospital remains closed as it is no longer suitable for the provision of day hospital services. Despite ongoing efforts since last October, it has proven extremely challenging to find an existing building in the locality that would be appropriate for the provision of day services; however, a premises was recently identified in the area as a potential day hospital to serve the local community.</p> <p>HSE Estates are due to visit the premises in the coming weeks to carry out a technical inspection to determine its suitability as a day hospital. If deemed suitable, the appropriate paperwork will be drawn up for a potential lease agreement.</p> <p>Dermot Monaghan, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare Organisation, (Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Sligo)</p>		
W100Q3369	How many hours of home help / home care are being provided each week to patients in Co. Sligo? How many patients are receiving the service? What percentage of this is being provided by: (A) HSE employed staff (B) Agency/Direct Providers? How many persons in Co Sligo have applied for home help/ home care package and are still awaiting the provision of the service?	Cllr D Bree
<p>How many hours of home help / home care are being provided each week to patients in Co. Sligo? 6769.02 hours of home help are being provided, each week, to patients in County Sligo.</p> <p>How many patients are receiving the service? 958 clients are currently receiving a home help service.</p> <p>What percentage of this is being provided by; (a) HSE employed staff: 66.45% (b) Agency / Direct Providers: 33.55%</p> <p>How many persons in Co. Sligo have applied for Home Help / Home care package and are still awaiting the provision of the service? Eighteen clients are currently awaiting the provision of their home help service. There are ten clients awaiting an increase in their current service.</p> <p>Dermot Monaghan, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare Organisation, (Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Sligo)</p>		

W100Q3370	Can I be provided in tabular form, for the year 2021 and 2022 to date, the number of people who attended the A&E Department in Sligo University Hospital each week.	Cllr D Bree
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The below table shows the number of people who attended the A&E Department in Sligo University Hospital for the full year in 2021, January to May 2021 and ytd 2022:

ED Presentations / Attendance	Full Year 2021	Jan - May 2021	YTD 2022
	40058	15139	17866

A. Cosgrove, COO, Saolta University Health Care Group

W100Q3371	What is the full staffing quota of the CAMHS Community Mental Health Team in each CAMHS area in Sligo-Leitrim, and what vacancies currently exist in each team? And what response has there been to the submission of December 2021, to the National CAMHS wait list initiative fund, to reduce the waiting list numbers.	Cllr D Bree
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The HSE Sligo Leitrim 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 CAMHS service is based in the Nazareth House in Sligo town; serving children from the Sligo, Leitrim and west Cavan areas. The table below lists the number of Staff in place and the number of vacancies currently awaiting recruitment:

Staffing, Sligo Leitrim Mental Health Service CAMHS

Post	Currently in place in SLMHS CAMHS Service, WTE	Current Vacancies WTE
Consultant psychiatrist	2.0	0
NCHD - Registrar	2.0	0
Psychiatric nurses	1.0	3.0 ¹
Clinical psychologists	1.0	2.0 ²
Social workers	2.2	0
Occupational therapist	0.6	1 ³
Speech and language therapist	2.0	0
Child care worker/Social Care Leader	0.44	0
Dietitian	0.5	0
Administrative staff	2.6	0

As referenced in above table;

- ¹ 2 Staff Nurses on final stages of recruitment (start date pending). 1 Clinical Nurse Manager 2 post expressed to panel.
- ² The 2 Psychologist posts are currently with recruitment
- ³ 1 staff temporarily redeployed. Attempts to backfill Occupational Therapist post unsuccessful to date. Staff to return to CAMHS in September 2022

Please note the above table reflects the available WTE for the SLMHS CAMHS team. Some staff has taken parental leave as this is their statutory right under the Parental Leave Acts 1998-2019 which allow parents to take 26 weeks

parental leave from employment, up until their child's 12th birthday. This has reduced the available WTE for the CAMHS team.

In addition to the above staffing profile I can confirm the following posts have been approved and are currently being recruited for. The addition of these posts to the CAMHS Teams this will assist to reduce the waiting lists and enhance the service.

CAMHS Waiting List Initiative

Post Approved	WTE Approved
NCHD - Registrar	1.0
Clinical Nurse Specialist	1.0
Grade IV Administration	1.0

Dermot Monaghan, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare Organisation, (Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Sligo)

W100Q3372	What is the (a) Shortest waiting time, (b) Longest waiting time, (c) Mean waiting time, (the time from Emergency Department registration to either admission to the hospital or discharge home) – for patients attending the Accident and Emergency Department in Sligo University Hospital in the months, January, February, March and April of 2022.	Cllr D Bree
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Patient Experience times in the Emergency Department are measures that are reported on a weekly/monthly basis for all Emergency attendances. This measures time of arrival to discharge or admission to inpatient bed.

Please see below PET times for January, February, March and April of 2022:

		January Actual	February Actual	March Actual	April Actual	May Actual
Emergency Care and Patient Experience Time	% of all attendees at ED who are discharged or admitted within 6 hours of registration	71.6%	71.6%	49.54%	49.54%	48%
	% of all attendees at ED who are discharged or admitted within 9 hours of registration	54.5%	54.5%	66.3%	66.3%	65%

We do not collate data on Shortest waiting times in ED locally, nationally or in Saolta. Typically these are patients who are redirected on triage to a different care pathway. Equally we do not collate data on Longest waiting time in ED.

The Length of Stay in ED, in mean time is broken down below monthly for 2022:

Month	Mean time
January	6.41 hours
February	6.42 hours
March	6.58 hours
April	7.09 hours
Overall mean time January to April	6.53 hours

A. Cosgrove, COO, Saolta University Health Care Group

W100Q3373	<p>Can the RHFWS be provided with a report on the most up to date figures on Emergency Department Patient Experience Time at Sligo University Hospital to include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % Of all attendees at ED who are discharged or admitted within six hours of registration • % Of all attendees at ED who are discharged or admitted within nine hours of registration • % Of all attendees at ED who are in ED <24 hours • % Of all attendees aged 75 years and over at ED who are discharged or admitted within six hours of registration • % Of all attendees aged 75 years and over at ED who are discharged or admitted within nine hours of registration • % Of all attendees aged 75 years and over at ED who are discharged or admitted within 24 hours of registration • % Of all attendees aged 15 years and under (or Children) at ED who are discharged or admitted within six hours of registration • % Of all attendees aged 15 years and under (or Children) at ED who are discharged or admitted within nine hours of registration • % Of all attendees aged 15 years and under (or Children) at ED who are discharged or admitted within 24 hours of registration 	Cllr D Gilroy
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Please see below Emergency Department PET times for Sligo University Hospital, from January to April 2022:

Jan to April 2022

• % Of all attendees at ED who are discharged or admitted within six hours of registration	50.60%
• % Of all attendees at ED who are discharged or admitted within nine hours of registration	67.50%
• % Of all attendees at ED who are in ED <24 hours	94.20%
• % Of all attendees aged 75 years and over at ED who are discharged or admitted within six hours of registration	29%
• % Of all attendees aged 75 years and over at ED who are discharged or admitted within nine hours of registration	45.39%
• % Of all attendees aged 75 years and over at ED who are discharged or admitted within 24 hours of registration	87.72%
• % Of all attendees aged 15 years and under (or Children) at ED who are discharged or admitted within six hours of registration	75.51%
• % Of all attendees aged 15 years and under (or Children) at ED who are discharged or admitted within nine hours of registration	91.85%
• % Of all attendees aged 15 years and under (or Children) at ED who are discharged or admitted within 24 hours of registration	99.91%

A. Cosgrove, COO, Saolta University Health Care Group

W100Q3374	<p>Can the HSE provide an update on staffing at Chronic Disease Hubs across the RHFWS area. And confirm that there is no community-based consultant endocrinologist appointed in Sligo for the Chronic Disease Hub and that there were only two areas in the country left out of the diabetologist appointments for the hubs: Ballymun and Sligo.</p>	Cllr D Gilroy
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Please see summary of progress on recruitment of posts approved under the Chronic Disease Programme in Community Healthcare West;

- Total No. of Community based posts approved 97 Whole Time Equivalent (WTE)
- Total No. who have taken up posts is 38.9 WTE or 40% of the posts
- No. of staff who have accepted posts, and in the process of pre-employment screening is 21.5 WTE or 22 % of the posts
- The balance of posts are in various stages of the recruitment process, with campaigns underway.

There was no Community Based Endocrinologist approved for Galway.

Breda Crehan-Roche, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare West

Community Healthcare Organisation, (Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Sligo)

	Recruited	In various stages of recruitment
Donegal	16 WTE	9 WTE
Sligo/Leitrim	15 WTE	17.2 WTE

There was no Community Based Endocrinologist approved for Sligo though I do not have the information regarding what other parts of country were not approved for this post also.

Dermot Monaghan, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare Organisation, (Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Sligo)

Please see below updated in relation to the staffing of the Chronic Disease Hubs across the **Mid-West Community Healthcare Organisation (CHO3) area:**

Chronic Disease Team	Approved (WTE)	In post (WTE)	Posts at advanced stage of recruitment	Posts awaiting recruitment
Limerick	32.4	11.5	3	17.9
Clare & Nth. Tipperary Enhanced Team	41.2	9.5	12	19.7
University Hospital Limerick Group (UHLG) & Mid West CHO Acute CDM Posts	20.5	5	0	15.5
Totals	94.1	26	15	53.1

Maria Bridgeman, Chief Officer, HSE Mid West Community Healthcare

W100Q3375	Can the RFW be provided with a report on the percentage of ambulances that have a time interval 30 minutes or less from arrival at ED across each of the Hospitals in the RFW area to when the ambulance crew declares the readiness of the ambulance to accept another call (clear and available).	Cllr D Gilroy
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Ambulance turnaround times are compiled from the time of arrival at the specific Emergency Department until the time they are clear and available to respond to another call.

The detail below shows the percentage of ambulances that have a time interval of 30 minutes or less from arrival at ED across each of the Hospitals in the RFW area to when the ambulance crew declares the readiness of the ambulance to accept another call (clear and available) in relation to the month of May.

Hospital Name	% Cleared under 30 Minutes
University Hospital Limerick	27.3%
Letterkenny General hospital	9.1%
Mayo General Hospital	5.9%
Portiuncula General Hospital	13.6%
Sligo General Hospital	6.6%
University Hospital Galway	9.3%

JJ McGowan, Chief Ambulance Officer - West

W100Q3376	Can the RHFV Provide a report on the provision of Minor Injury Units across the RHFV Area and if there are any plans to provide a Unit like this in Sligo which may assist in reducing the number of patients attending at the ED Unit in Sligo University Hospital.	Cllr D Gilroy
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There is an Injury Unit at Roscommon University Hospital, which is open from 8am to 8pm, 365 days per year.

The Injury Unit at Roscommon University Hospital (RUH) opened in July 2011 and offers GP or self –referral services for a range of injuries which are not life threatening and are unlikely to result in serious long term disability. The range of injuries which can be treated in the Unit is based on a standardised list which has been agreed by the National Emergency Medicine Programme. The list of treatable injuries includes suspected broken bones (extremities), sprains and strains, burns, wounds, bites, abscesses and minor chest and head injuries amongst others. The Unit treats adults and children aged 5 years and older, and is open from 8am to 8pm, 365 days a year. Diagnostics including xray, CT and ultrasound are also available 365 years a year for patient attending the Injury Unit. The Unit has established pathways of care for different specialties, as required.

A Registered Advanced Nurse Practitioner (ANP) in Emergency Medicine was first appointed to the Injury Unit in 2016, with a second Registered ANP appointed in 2020, and a third in 2022. In addition, the Unit also has four candidate ANPs currently in training. It is expected that one of the candidates will be registered in September 2022, and the remaining three candidates will be registered at various stages over the next two years.

Attendances to the Injury Unit have increased year on year since it opened back in 2011, and there has been significant increases in attendances in 2021 and 2022 in particular. See table below

Roscommon Injury Unit Attendances		
	ED	Injury Unit
2009	14,083	
2010	13,349	
2011	6,722	2,655
2012		5,940
2013		4,261
2014		4,650
2015		5,118
2016		5,085
2017		6,195
2018		6,652
2019		7,676
2020		6,758
2021		9,155
Projected 2022 (based on May YTD)		11,599

Note: figures in 2011 & 2012 included MAU attendances

The table below gives some information in relation to out of hours and out of protocol attendances, and ambulance transfers of patients attending the Unit in the past 4 years. Out of protocol attendances represent between 11% and 13% of all attendances annually for the past four years, and remain one of the most significant challenges for the hospital.

Roscommon Injury Unit Statistics				
	2018	2019	2020	2021
Attendances				
New	4,864	5,836	5,213	7,259
Review (inc. trauma)	1,788	1,840	1,545	1,896
Total	6,652	7,676	6,758	9,155
AVLOS (mins)				
	49	47	47	59
Out of Hours Presentations				
	41	49	24	23
Out of Protocol Presentations				
Children	115	133	105	139
Adults	800	971	719	1,023
Total	915	1,104	824	1,162
Ambulance Transfers				
	88	111	57	91

In the expanded Emergency Department area in Sligo University Hospital, a dedicated 4 bay Minors area has been created to see these patients present with Minor Injuries. This is supported by Advanced Nurse Practitioners to help streamline patient through the Emergency Department. No plans are in place for the development of a separate Minor Injuries Unit in Sligo.

T. Canavan, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group

UL Hospitals Group has three Injury Units—in Ennis, Nenagh and St John’s Hospital—where tens of thousands of people over the age of 5 years are treated every year for minor injuries such as sprains, breaks and burns. UL Hospitals Group’s Injury Units help to ensure that the Emergency Department at University Hospital Limerick can prioritise emergency care for the sickest and most seriously injured patients who need it most.

For patients over the age of 5 years who suffer sprains, breaks and burns, the Injury Units are the most efficient treatment pathway. The Injury Unit teams can also treat sports injuries, including hand and ankle injuries, and can remove foreign bodies from the eye, ear and nose. Staff also provide quick access to diagnostics and x-rays, make the necessary arrangements to refer patients to specialist care when required, and arrange follow-up appointments within the Injury Unit where necessary.

The Injury Unit teams are composed of emergency medicine physicians, advanced nurse practitioners, nurses, health care assistants and administrative support, working together to provide a high quality and timely service for people with a wide range of non-emergency injuries. Registered Advanced Nurse Practitioners (RANP) and Candidate ANPs play a particularly important role, with their ability to perform full episodes of care on patients from admission to discharge, as well as organising follow-up appointments and ongoing reviews, and referral to expert care when required.

In 2021, a total of 33,853 patients attended all three units. In the same year, attendances at our three Injury Units (Ennis, Nenagh and St John's) increased by 13% on the previous year (2020) and by 2% attendance levels in 2019, the last full year pre-pandemic. Growth in attendances in our Injury Units continues in 2022. Activity at Nenagh Injury Unit has grown by 68% so far this year (YTD April 30th) and 27% at Ennis Injury Unit. In April 2022, Nenagh Injury Unit had its busiest month to date and Ennis, its second busiest

All three Injury Units are open seven days, 365 days a year.

No appointment is necessary. The Ennis Hospital Injury Unit (open 8am-8pm) can be contacted on 065-6863121. The Nenagh unit (open 8am-8pm) can be contacted on 067-42311, and the St John's Hospital unit (open 8am-7pm), can be reached on 061-462303. For more information about the range of injuries that can be treated visit: <https://www2.hse.ie/services/injury-units/https://www2.hse.ie/services/injury-units/>

C. Cowan CEO UL Hospitals Group

W100Q3377	How many pharmacists in Galway City are currently participating in the Opioid Substitution Treatment Scheme? How many patients are registered on the central treatment list for each of the participating pharmacies?	Cllr J Connolly
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There are 20 pharmacies in Galway City registered to dispense opiate substitution treatment (OST) and 11 of these are currently dispensing.

Please see below for number of clients in each pharmacy (the individual pharmacy names have been anonymised to protect client confidentiality);

Pharmacy	No. of Clients
A	2 Clients
B	3 Clients
C	4 Clients
D	1 Client
E	13 Clients
F	1 Client
G	3 Clients
H	6 Clients
I	3 Clients
J	1 Client
K	1 Client

Breda Crehan-Roche, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare West

W100Q3378	Can the Forum be advised as to what level of respite care is currently available for children with disabilities in CHO 2? How many nights of respite care have been provided for children to this point in 2022 and how many families have benefited from same?	Cllr J Connolly
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Respite to children in Community Healthcare west is funded by the HSE and delivered by our Agency Partners. Respite supports to families and children is delivered in a number of different formats such as centre based respite (overnight and other), Home Share/Host Families, Outreach, Day respite, Contract Families, In-home respite supports, community/evening respite and children's holiday camps etc.

The data in the two tables below relate to overnight centre based respite and Home Share but do not include, Outreach, In-home respite supports etc.

The number of Overnight Respite resources in the CHW for Children.

Galway	Child Respite Beds per week
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Ability West	39
Brothers of Charity	32
Roscommon	
St Hilda's	16
Brothers of Charity	12
Mayo	
Western Care Association	21

It should be noted that the above availability is reflective of the current situation in Community Healthcare West. The available bed nights have been reduced to date this year owing to a number of factors such as accommodating emergency residential placements in respite settings, Covid-19, staff shortage challenges across the sector with recruitment and retention of staff, and the level of complexity of need is increasing among children. All bed nights available are being maximised right across CHW.

Accommodating emergency residential placements for children and young people in crisis in respite settings has reduced access to respite for other families.

Community Healthcare West Disability Services is exploring every possible option to resolve the above situation so that the full quantum of respite that families were availing of in these respite settings can be restored.

Home Share/Host Family Resources in the CHW for Children.

Agency	County	No. of Respite Placements
Ability West	Galway	58
Brother of Charity	Galway	11
Western Care	Mayo	27

The HSE have funded agencies to contract Home Share and Host Families to provide respite supports to children. Typically, Home Share families provide long term long term respite supports to families and children whereas Host families provide short term respite breaks.

The number of Respite Overnights provided to children up to the 31st May 2022.

	No of Bed Nights Provided	No of families who benefitted
Galway	1533	73
Mayo	261	20
Roscommon	345	16

Please note that a new five bedded respite house for children with complex medical needs is due to open in Galway at the end of Quarter 1, 2023 this will increase respite services for children and young people across Community Healthcare West.

Breda Crehan-Roche, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare West

W100Q3379	How many staff were employed at the various Covid testing centres that operated throughout the forum area in 2021? How many of the staff remain employed in the area of testing and can the forum be provided with the details of what number of testing staff have been redeployed to other areas of HSE Service provision and what, if any, number of the staff have had their employment terminated?	Cllr J Connolly
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Community Healthcare West

How many staff were employed at the various Covid testing centres that operated throughout the forum area in 2021?

There are 94 members of staff employed at the Covid Test Centres across CHO2 (Galway, Mayo, Roscommon).

How many of the staff remain employed in the area of testing?

From the 1st of July there will be 23 staff members remaining in employment.

Can the forum be provided with the details of what number of testing staff have been redeployed to other areas of HSE Service provision?

In CHO2 there are currently 18 staff members redeployed to other areas of HSE Service. This number is likely to increase considerably pending an Expression of Interest Process that is taking place.

What, if any, number of the staff have had their employment terminated?

Every member of staff will get an offer to extend their contract to work for a further 6 months within the HSE, and this offer is based on a skills match interview process.

Breda Crehan-Roche, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare West

Community Healthcare, Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Sligo

How many staff were employed at the various Covid testing centres that operated throughout the forum area in 2021?

There were 85 members of staff employed at the four Covid Test Centres (CTC) across CHO1 (Sligo, Leitrim and Donegal)

How many of the staff remain employed in the area of testing?

From the 1st of July there will be 16 staff members remaining in employment across three CTCs in the forum area of Sligo, Leitrim and Donegal.

Can the forum be provided with the details of what number of testing staff have been redeployed to other areas of HSE Service provision?

In CHO1 there are currently 27 staff members redeployed to other areas of HSE Service. This number is likely to increase considerably pending an EOI Process that is taking place.

What, if any, number of the staff have had their employment terminated?

A small number of staff may have their contracts terminated. However, we are currently engaging in an EOI Process with these staff members where we hope to find suitable roles for them.

Dermot Monaghan, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare Organisation, (Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Sligo)

HSE Mid West Community Healthcare

There are currently three testing sites across the HSE Mid West Community Healthcare area, namely Ennis, Limerick and Nenagh. In 2021, there was a high turnover of staff working within community testing with fluctuating staffing levels throughout the year. The lowest staffing level was 77 WTE and the highest staffing level was 103 WTE. An average of 96 WTE were employed in community testing in 2021.

There are 101.3 WTE employed in testing in the Mid West Community Healthcare as of the 31st May 2022.

Please note the following details that relate directly to your query. From the 1st of July 2022:

- 23.2 WTE will be retained in the community testing team across Mid West Community Healthcare
- For the year 2022 to date, 18 staff members are now working or are being processed for alternative roles within the HSE
- For the year 2022 to date, 10 staff members have resigned their posts from testing and have left the HSE
- From the 30th of June 7 WTE will return to their substantive posts within the HSE
- From the 30th June 59.1WTE number of staff contracts will cease

A range of supports have been offered to the staff affected by these changes.

- Ongoing and regular communications advising of all job opportunities that have arisen throughout the Mid West Community Healthcare area over the last number of months. Weekly e-mails are sent to all team members.
- Information sessions have been held at each community testing centre in relation to job opportunities e.g. with the home support team
- In conjunction with HR, a job preparation workshop was developed and rolled out to all the community testing team. Each team member was given the opportunity to attend.
- Expressions of Interest have been sought from across our Divisions to give members of the Testing the opportunity to work in other areas, i.e. Ukraine project, Operational side of community testing, Dental reception, HR, MTA posts.
- A Plan was implemented across the Testing Centres to give the community swabbers the opportunity to gain further clerical experience.
- Support with job applications and CVs.
- 1-to-1 conversations have been held between community testing team members and senior managers to ascertain their area of work interest with a view to encouraging them to proceed with their career within the HSE and to advise them of future and current opportunities that are available to them.

Maria Bridgeman, Chief Officer, HSE Mid West Community Healthcare

W100Q3380	Can the forum be provided with the number of Hospital Initiated Cancellation of Procedures in 2021? What measures are been taken to expedite the facilitation of procedures that were cancelled in 2020 and 2021 due to the Covid emergency?	Cllr J Connolly
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Saolta Group context:
 Cancellations have been historically difficult to quantify in a validated and systematic way within the limitations of the existing systems in place.
 There are a number of reasons for cancellations including hospital cancellation, patient cancellation, consultant cancellation.

During COVID 19 surges, scheduled hospital activity was severely impacted across all of our sites, with patients not being scheduled in significant numbers.

Since march 2022, the HSE Business Intelligence Unit are now centrally collating hospital specific cancellations. This involves hospital sites doing a weekly manual return of hospital cancelled procedures and appointments so that accurate data around cancellations will be available going forward.

There are multiple measures taken to try and reschedule patients who have not received their appointments.

1. Patients are facilitated into the first available appointment slot following their cancellation, often getting priority over long waiting patients.
2. In 2022 additional **outpatients** activity has allowed for 15,825 patients to be removed from the waiting list; the acute clinical prioritization pathway has facilitated 1,385 patients year to date across the group. NTPF outsourcing has facilitated 4,438 patients year to date, insourcing has facilitated 2,113 and intensified

administrative validation cycles have allowed 7,889 patients to be removed from waiting list (no longer required, seen privately) ensuring all capacity is maximized for patients who actually require it.

3. For **inpatient and day cases** patients were removed; 1,421 through NTPF outsourcing, 343 through insourcing, 238 through Safety Net 4 and 872 through intensified administrative cycles.
4. For **scope** there was 2,892 patients removed; 1,053 through NTPF outsourcing and 1,839 through insourcing initiatives.

Galway University Hospital:

GUH OUTPATIENT CANCELLATION DATA 2021	
IPMS DATA January-November 2021	
Cancellation\Rescheduling Reason	
Hospital Cancellations	91593

GUH DAY CASE AND INPATIENT CANCELLATION DATA 2021	
IPMS DATA January -November 2021	
Daycase/Inpatient Cancellation Reason	
Appointment Cancelled by <u>Hospital</u>	12857
Grand Total	16647

From an outpatient perspective patients who were cancelled during the COVID period were generally booked back into clinic when we were able to start seeing patients again as this would be our normal process, so the majority of cancellations will have since received their appointment. What the various COVID related clinic cancellations and restrictions left us with was a significant backlog of patients, because we had to re-book the cancellations into the next free slots the next patient on the waiting list couldn't get booked in and as a result waiting times are longer. There are various initiatives going on to try and provide additional capacity to get patients seen a bit quicker.

NTPF Outsourcing: The NTPF set up a new outpatient outsourcing programme during 2021 which gave us allowed us to send outpatients out to the private sector for initial assessment, diagnostics and if required treatment. GUH have been sending patients out from a number of specialties including ENT, Orthopaedics, Urology amongst others. To date around 2,250 patients have been outsourced.

Insourcing Initiatives: we have a number of initiatives set up to increase/improve access in a number of specialties for example we have set up additional Plastic Surgery Clinics in Portiuncula University Hospital, we are also in the process of engaging insourcing providers to help us clear the backlog of patients waiting for Breast Triple Assessment and Gastroenterology outpatient appointments. These are just a few examples of a number of initiatives we have set up.

Inpatient/day cases/day treatments: As with the outpatients most of the cancelled patients will have been given a new appointment at the time, however this has pushed the other patients on the waiting list who in normal circumstance would have been seen in the capacity used for the re-bookings. As above there are a number of different things we are doing to improve access.

GUH is also scheduled to start a piece of work looking to increase our current outpatient clinic capacity for two sessions per day to three.

NTPF Outsourcing: The hospital continue to utilise all opportunities to outsource patients to the private sector to help get patients treated a little quicker.

Insourcing Initiatives: GUH also have various initiatives set up in-house to provide more capacity. An example of this would be the recruitment of an insourcing provider to run weekend lists (every fortnight) in Endoscopy.

Safety Net 4 (SN4) and Local Service Level Agreement (SLA): We have been making good use of SN4 which provides some additional access to the private hospitals to help us deal with some of our longer waiting patients, the key difference between SN4 and normal outsourcing is we can essentially do any procedure where as NTPF work to select group of high volume procedures. The local SLA also provides our surgeons access to theatre lists in the Galway Clinic.

Where possible we are also sending patients to our colleagues in the Level 2 and 3 Hospitals across Saolta, unfortunately the numbers would be low at present as they are also dealing with the impact of cancelled activity during COVID.

The orthopaedic theatres in MPUH opened on Friday 10th June and operating at current level of 10 sessions and on a phased basis we hope to increase back up to 16 sessions and then eventually 20 sessions which will assist improving access and waiting times, however this is dependent on staff being recruited which is in progress.

Roscommon University Hospital:

1128 elective procedures were cancelled in Roscommon University Hospital in 2021. However it should be noted that this includes procedures which were cancelled and re-booked within short periods of time due to operational changes in the Hospital (e.g. to facilitate unplanned or other leave, or changing a Theatre session to a different day of the week).

Where possible, the hospital scheduled additional sessions and implemented insourcing and outsourcing initiatives in order to facilitate patient procedures.

Portiuncula University Hospital:

There were 197 hospital initiated cancellations at PUH in 2021. These cancellations were due to bed pressures, increased COVID presentations to the site and the HSE Cyber Attack.

Portiuncula regularly discusses scheduled care activity to mitigate against cancellations and to ensure that any vacant theatre and endoscopy appointments are fully utilised. In addition in the final quarter of 2021 the hospital introduced a weekend endoscopy initiative which is continuing in 2022. All patients are pre-operatively assessed either in-person attendance or via telephone to ensure that they are fit and available for surgery for the designated date and times.

Letterkenny University Hospital:

2021

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Sumc	
Cancelled Due to Pandemic	14	5	11	2	2	2	2	1	3	1	1	42
Clinic cancelled	19	16	12	9	3							57
Consultant Request	193	137	144	262	246	232	208	216	222	238		2100
COVID 19	155	113	60	23	2	4	3	5	1	4		370
Cyber Attack 21 - Ransomware						374	122		2			498
Hospital Cancel due to Pandemic	272	226	37	32	2	2				1		572
Hospital Cancelled Appointment	22	20	21	17	19	25	16	21	17	31		215
Patient Cancel due to Pandemic	70	34	30	15	4	7	13	16	12	11		212
Patient Cancelled Appointment	134	144	219	205	213	226	314	326	359	254		2394
Slot cancelled	2					1			1	1		5
Staff Shortage											1	1
Sumc	881	695	534	565	864	620	557	592	613	541		6462

LUH continues to prioritise the scheduling of appointments and/or procedures that were cancelled as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. The hospital has also submitted and been approved funding from the Scheduled Care Transformation Programme to commence initiative clinics in a number of specialities.

In conjunction with this the hospital is also working with:

- The NTPF to offer outsourced appointments to the longest waiting patients for both consultation and procedures, as well as funding to support in-house initiatives in a number of specialities,
- The SafetyNet 4 agreement to access available capacity in private hospitals,
- The Acute Hospitals Initiative 3 funding to access procedures not covered by the NTPF where capacity is available in the private sector and patients

Sligo University Hospital:

The total number of patients who had procedures cancelled in 2021 is 94. However, significant numbers of patients were not scheduled due to Covid-19 and the cyber attack.

Number of patients not scheduled due to lists not undertaken	2020	2021
	2025	2442

Mayo University Hospital: – Validated data is not available at this time.

A. Cosgrove, COO, Saolta University Health Care Group

Since March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic caused significant disruption to health services in the Mid-West and nationally. Scheduled care was reduced in hospitals across the country during surges of the disease, in line with the national pandemic response policy, which aimed to ensure that essential, time-critical care could be provided to those most in need of it.

The ebb and flow of COVID-19 surges have been disruptive and difficult to manage, and we apologise to all who have been affected. We’re committed to ensuring that all patients whose appointments have been deferred during the pandemic will be rescheduled as soon as possible.

The 2022 Waiting List Action Plan and HSE National Service Plan 2022 published by the Department of Health both set out new targets on waiting lists, with a focus on the longest waiters.

We are addressing waiting lists through a number of scheduled care initiatives that come under the National Treatment Purchase Fund (NTPF), the Hospital Safety Net Service Agreement, and the Advanced Clinical Prioritisation Programme. Under the Private Hospital Safety Net Service Agreement, UL Hospitals Group has referred urgent surgical and medical cases to private hospitals.

In addition, virtual clinics are being used to identify patients who can be progressed to in-person treatment, whether for diagnostic imaging, minor procedures, or full episodes of care.

The HSE has also established the Scheduled Care Transformation Programme to ensure a sustained, system-wide transformation process that tackles the challenge of scheduled care waiting times, improves access to scheduled care services, and ensures the safe delivery of care.

There are also a number of key drivers which will help improve waiting lists in 2022 including the recruitment of additional:

- Consultants
- NCHDs
- Advanced Nurse Practitioners
- Clinical Nurse Specialists
- Extended Scope Physiotherapists
- Clerical/Admin Staff Grades

While the pandemic was a major factor for procedures being cancelled by the hospital, appointments can also be cancelled for other reasons, including by the patients themselves or their parents/guardians. In total, 8,886 inpatient and day case procedures were cancelled across UL Hospitals Group in 2021.

Of the 8,886 procedures cancelled in 2021, more than 5,100 were cancelled by the hospital or team (reductions in scheduled care in line with escalation policy; pandemic related cancellations; theatre over-runs etc); more than 3,700 were cancelled by the patient or guardian (patient unable to attend or could not be contacted; Covid-19 precautions; patient did not pass pre-operative assessment etc) and a small number of cancellations occurred for reasons beyond the control of the hospital or patient, such as adverse weather and industrial action. Emergency and time-critical services continued to operate at all times throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, during 2021, 38,536 inpatient and day-case procedures took place at University Hospital Limerick.

C. Cowan CEO UL Hospitals Group

W100Q3381	Can I get a breakdown on how many adults are currently awaiting hip surgery and assessment under the Orthopedic service in Galway. Can I also get a breakdown on how long people are waiting for initial assessment for their procedures and for what duration they are waiting to have surgery.	Cllr D Ó Cualáin
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Galway University Hospital:

1.Outpatients Awaiting Assessment for Hip complaints (Booked and Unbooked)

Count of FORENAME	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 Months	Grand Total
Congenitally Dislocatable Hips	1		4	19		2	2				28
Hip	76	99	161	109	80	21	51	59	28	4	684
Hip Pain			33	3	4	33	66	2			141
Total arthroplasty of hip, unilateral				1							1
Grand Total	77	99	198	132	84	56	119	61	24	4	854

2. Inpatients Awaiting Hip Surgery (includes patients: 1) that have no date (Active) 2) have a TCI date (pre-admit) or 3) who have been outsourced to the private sector (most of the suspensions)

Specialty	Orthopaedics	▼									
isadult	TRUE	▼									
procname	(Multiple Items)	▼									
Count of Institution	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	Grand Total
ACTIVE		50	36	37	27	16	3	11	8	5	193
PREADMIT			1	2							3
SUSPENSION		1	1	4	1				2		9
Grand Total		51	38	43	28	16	3	11	10	5	205

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 (As at the 14 th June 2022)							
0-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	12-15 months	15-18 months	26-36 months	Total
13	11	10	9	5			48

T. Canavan, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group

W100Q3382	Can I get a breakdown on how much GUH has paid to Private Security companies for 2020 2021 and 2022 to provide services at the hospital. What services are provided by these companies within the hospital and how often is the service tendered or renewed?	Clr D Ó Cualáin
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Please see below breakdown of payments to Private Security Companies for services provided in GUH;

2022 (Jan-May)	871,343
2021	1,893,715
2020	1,740,877

Regarding services provided, they are as follows:

- Provision of static officers;
- Key holding;
- CCTV / Alarm Monitoring;
- Response to Alarm Activations;
- Mobile Patrols;
- Close supervision of patients where required;
- Production of Staff I.D. Badges.

The current contract is in its 3rd year, with an option to extend for a further 12 months.

A. Cosgrove, COO, Saolta University Health Care Group

W100Q3383	When the new temporary ED is opened will it have more or less patient capacity than the current ED? What plans have the Saolta group to deal with the ongoing record breaking numbers of patient's waiting on trolley's within the ED over the last number of months. Given we are seeing a significant	Clr D Ó Cualáin
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	increase in numbers over the summer months what plans are being put in place to deal with the expected annual winter surge.	
<p>The construction of the interim (temporary) ED commenced in June 2021 and is programmed to be completed in Q3 2022. This accommodation shall serve as an enabling advanced works project to clear the site for the permanent ED and Women & Children's development. The handover of the Phase 1 temporary Emergency Department is scheduled for handover from the contractor in mid-July 2022 and then commissioning will take approx. 3-4 weeks. Phase 2/Internal area is scheduled for handover in September 2022.</p> <p>The temporary ED will have more capacity (43) than ED pre-Covid (34). The temporary ED will provide all single closed cubicles & extra Resuscitation bays providing greater dignity and privacy for patients.</p> <p>GUH has relocated the Cardiothoracic Ward to a new area and plan to open 14 beds in St Nicholas ward for which staff are being recruited.</p> <p>Restoration of the Acute Medical Unit pathways and the Acute Surgical Assessment pathways to assist with flow and streaming from ED is underway. This streaming ensure that patients receive the right care in the right place.</p> <p>The Green and Red pathways are being reconfigured and the hospital is also seeking to recruit additional ED Consultants.</p> <p>GUH has a GP working in ED to support Rapid Assessment. Re-establishing the Rapid Access Nurse Role will result in earlier sign posting/streaming for patients.</p> <p>The GP Liason Nurse, a recent appointment to the ED, responds to GP alerts. They discuss these patients with triage staff, GP's and the ED medical team.</p> <p>The Mars (Multidisciplinary Allied Response Team) and FFD (frailty) team are present in ED and ensure early intervention for frailty screening and pathways to minimise Patient Experience Time and also admission avoidance.</p> <p>In 2022, Galway University Hospital will work with colleagues in National Ambulance Service to introduce Pathfinder, an alternative care pathway.</p> <p>This new service aims to safely keep vulnerable older people who have phoned 999/112, in their own home rather than transporting them to the ED for assessment. A specific team of staff will be employed to deliver this service including Advanced Paramedics (AP), Occupational Therapists (OT) and Physiotherapists (PT); will include a Rapid Response Vehicle (RRV) and an Electronic Patient Care Record (EPCR).</p> <p>Saolta is working closely with the community on the enhanced community care programme of work. Under the programme, GPs will be supported by specialist community teams in the management of chronic diseases. One of the key deliverables will be the expansion of community diagnostics to support chronic disease management and GP direct access, thus avoiding hospital referral.</p>		
T. Canavan, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group		
W100Q3384	Can I get an update in relation to the new ambulance base in north Connemara. Has a planning application been submitted for the redevelopment of the base at the old health centre in Recess? Where are the additional crews for north Connemara currently based and operating from?	Cllr D Ó Cualáin
Preparation of the planning submission documents for an ambulance base at the old health centre at Recess are at an advance stage. The intention would be to lodge planning application late July/ early August 2022.		

The North Connemara crews' (1 Emergency Ambulance and 1 Rapid Response Vehicle) are currently commencing and ending their shift in Clifden. During their shift, they are then dynamically deployed within the area. E.g. If Carraroe is out they cover or if Clifden is out they cover. If both Clifden and Carraroe are at the station they cover in Ballinrobe deployment point until such times as they are required back in either Clifden or Carraroe. This is a temporary measure until such times that the premises are ready in Recess.

JJ McGowan, Chief Ambulance Officer - West / Joe Hoare, Assistant National Director, Capital & Estates

W100Q3385	Has alternative accommodation been secured by the HSE for clients who had emergency full time respite provision at Riverwalk House?	Cllr A Doherty
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Accommodation has been secured for one of the service users currently residing in Riverwalk and is due to be completed within the next few weeks. Alternative accommodation is currently being sourced for a second service user. Properties identified to date were not suitable but HSE Property Management in Donegal is continuing to review all options available and are giving this requirement high priority.

Dermot Monaghan, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare Organisation, (Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Sligo)

W100Q3386	What will the HSE do to improve Respite opportunities in the Lifford Community Hospital area	Cllr G Crawford
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Clients who would normally have received their respite care in Lifford Community Hospital can now avail of it in St Joseph's Community Hospital. They can apply for this service by contacting their local Public Health Nurse on 074 91 72860 or through their own GP.

Dermot Monaghan, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare Organisation, (Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Sligo)

W100Q3387	What update can be given in relation to the future of Community Hospital services in Lifford.	Cllr G Crawford
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In 2021 Lifford Unit was due to be reregistered for a further 3 year period similar to other units in Donegal, however HIQA had concerns regarding the suitability of the premises to deliver quality care. The Older People Services engaged with HIQA and it was agreed that that no further admissions would take place until upgrading works were complete. These include roof repairs, fire safety upgrading, infection control and extensive refurbishment. From the 6.8.2021 the Unit closed to facilitate these essential works.

Meetings between National Older Persons Service, National Estates and CHO1 took place and it was agreed that a Business Plan for Capital submission would be made for Lifford. A business case for both an 18 bed refurb and a 21 bed refurb were submitted in early 2022, however with further appraisal it was agreed that the most appropriate solution, both locally and national, would be a 25 bed build on a green field site. We are also engaging with other relevant stakeholders to expand the facility to include wider health and social care services. The final updated costed Business Case including the schedule of accommodation is nearing completion and will be submitted to the National Capital & Property Steering Committee for their consideration. As such, the timeframe for the proposed development can only be assured after the proposal has been considered, accepted and ratified

Dermot Monaghan, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare Organisation, (Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Sligo)

W100Q3388	What plans are in place or discussions taking place for further use /development of the St Conals complex in Letterkenny.	Cllr G Crawford
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Over the last 10 years HSE -Capital & Estates have carried out a number of projects on St Conals campus which included internal refurbishments (which have seen a number of services in rental properties relocate to St. Conals) an ongoing programme of Fabric Upgrade works to secure the fabric of the buildings by replacing the roof coverings, re-rendering the external facades and window repairs is continuing.

The Design Team for the Fabric Upgrade works have reviewed the entire main buildings and made recommendations on removal of a number of interjections which have been added to the original building over the years.

There is currently an update of the accommodation review for the Letterkenny area taking place which will inform the long term strategy for St Conals.

Dermot Monaghan, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare Organisation, (Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Sligo)

W100Q3389	Is there any efforts on going to restore day care services to the Lifford catchment area formally served by such a unit /service from Lifford Community Hospital	Cllr G Crawford
<p>The Habinteg Centre in Lifford has been identified as a potential alternative location to provide Community Day Hospital services in Lifford. We currently await a Technical Inspection by our estates department to determine the suitability of these premises.</p>		
<p><i>Dermot Monaghan, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare Organisation, (Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Sligo)</i></p>		
W100Q3390	There is a huge need for counselling services to be provided by the HSE for people trying to deal with coming out of Covid and trying to get back to full time employment where basically they were unemployed in especially the hospitality sector and now they have either moved on or find it hard to get back to employment after been out of work for 2 years.	Cllr F Gurn
<p>HSE Regional Counselling Services provide a range of Counselling options across Donegal and Sligo/Leitrim including Bereavement Therapy, CIPC [Counselling in Primary Care], NCS [National Counselling Service] Counselling for Adults with a history of childhood adversity and SHIP [Self Harm Intervention Programme]: a bespoke self-harm intervention counselling service for young adults between the ages of 16 and 25. All services are free and delivered locally in a variety of settings.</p>		
<p>With regard to the impacts of the Covid 19 pandemic we recommend the CIPC option which takes referrals directly from GP's and offers up to 9 sessions for adults presenting with mild to moderate issues related to here and now issues including adjustment, depression, anxiety, stress and relationship issues, loss etc.</p>		
<p>If more significant issues emerge clients can later be referred on to one of our dedicated service options or an assessment made with Mental Health Services for more specialist treatment and care.</p>		
<p>For information regarding referral to CIPC Counselling in your area contact your local GP who will make the referral for you and you will then be contacted by our local staff to arrange the next steps.</p>		
<p><i>Dermot Monaghan, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare Organisation, (Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Sligo)</i></p>		
W100Q3391	Does the HSE property section go around on regular basis to inspect derelict buildings that they have ownership off so they don't fall into disrepair and become unusable in the future where it costs the taxpayers more money to make them sustainable again and fit for purpose for other use by the HSE.	Cllr F Gurn
<p>Not available at time of printing.</p>		