

**Miontuairiscí chruinniú an Fhórait Sláinte Réigiúnaigh a tionóladh Dé Máirt, 26^ú
Samhain 2024 ag 1.00 i.n, i Seomra 1 an tIonad Oideachais,
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte, Ospidéal Ollscoile Páirc Mheirlinne, Gaillimh**

**Minutes of Regional Health Forum West meeting held on Tuesday, 26th November 2024
at 1.00pm in Room 1, Education Centre, Merlin Park University, Galway.**

Chairperson: Cllr Ciaran Brogan

Members Present	Members Apologies	Members Absent
Cllr Declan Bree	Cllr Marie Casserly	Cllr Antoinette Bashua Baker
Cllr Aisling Burke	Cllr Liam Galvin	Cllr Sharon Benson
Cllr Micheal Collins	Cllr Felim Gurn	Cllr Phyll Bugler
Cllr Greg Conway	Cllr Donna McGettigan	Cllr John Caulfield
Cllr Gary Doherty	Cllr Rita McInerney	Cllr Bridie Collins
Cllr Alma Gallagher		Cllr John Connolly
Cllr Alan Harney		Cllr Shaun Cunniffe
Cllr Emer Kelly		Cllr Paddy Farrell
Cllr Michael Kilcoyne		Cllr Ita Reynolds Flynn
Cllr Donagh Killilea		Cllr Francis Foley
Cllr Michael Loftus		Cllr Shane Forde
Cllr Eileen Mannion		Cllr Mary Howard
Cllr Seamus Morris		Cllr Declan Meehan
Cllr Sean Moylan		Cllr Edel McSharry
Cllr Gerry McMonagle		Cllr Elisa O'Donovan
Cllr Micheál Naughton		Cllr Ryan O'Meara
Cllr Dr Evelyn Francis Parsons		
Cllr Gareth Scahill		

In attendance:

Tony Canavan, Executive Lead, Regional Health Forum/ Regional Executive Officer, HSE West and North West
Ann Cosgrove, Integrated Health Area Manager, Galway Roscommon
Mary Warde, Integrated Health Area Manager, Mayo
Nuala Kelly, HOS Mental Health Services Mid-West
John Fitzmaurice, Integrated Health Area Manager Sligo, Leitrim, South Donegal, West Cavan
Dermot Monaghan, Integrated Health Area Manager, Donegal
Ian Carter, CEO Midwest Acute and Older People Services
Niall Murray, General Manager Area Operations, NAS
JJ McGowan, Chief Ambulance Officer – West, NAS
Marian Cavanagh, Regional Health Forum Office
Anna Lyons, Regional Health Forum Office

907/113/24 Minutes of previous meeting – 24th September 2024

The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 24th September 2024 were proposed by Cllr Michael Collins and seconded by Cllr Donagh Killilea and adopted.

908/113/24 Matters Arising:

Cllr Donagh Killilea wanted it noted that the matter of Attendance at the Regional Health Forum should be valued and it is disappointing that some Councillors do not attend at all.

The members were advised that the Standing Orders allow for three non-attendances at the Regional Health Forum meeting before Standing Order 8.1 is activated:

8. Attendance at Meetings

- 8.1 Where a Member of the Forum has not, for a consecutive period of three meetings, attended a meeting of the Forum, his or her membership of the Forum shall terminate, except where the non-attendance was due to the illness of the Member or to a reason approved by the Chairperson before the expiry of that period.

909/113/24 Chairman's Address:

- Apologies noted.
- The Regional Health Forum West 2025 Schedule was agreed.
- Tony Canavan, Executive Chairperson noted that there are changes to areas/structures taking place across the HSE and at today's meeting the answers are on the basis of the IHA areas.
- Cllr Brogan wished all the best to any of the Councillors running in the General Election.

910/113/24 Questions:

W113Q4157 - Inspection by Fire Chief at the ED UHL:

Action: Ian Carter agreed to provide Cllr Seamus Morris with the results of the fire inspections in the Emergency Department and actions taken.

W113Q4182 - Proposed 42 bed ward extension at Sligo University Hospital:

Action: John Fitzmaurice will liaise with Micheál Conneely to provide Cllr Bree with clarification on the planning permission issues for the proposed 42 bed ward extension at Sligo University Hospital.

W113Q4183 - Agency Consultant for the CAMHS ID Service in Sligo:

Action: John Fitzmaurice to confirm to Cllr Bree that there is an adequate support team for the agency MHID CAMHS consultant.

W113Q4185 - Properties rented by the HSE in Sligo and Leitrim:

Action: John Fitzmaurice will liaise with Micheál Conneely to provide the information that was listed as 'Data not available' in the table provided in the response. If the data is not provided an explanation is to be issued to Cllr Bree.

W113Q4187 – Property evaluation report for St. Brigid's Hospital, Ballinasloe:

Action: Ann Cosgrove to liaise with Micheál Conneely in relation to Cllr Harney's request that the evaluation report will be made available when it is finalised.

Action: Micheál Conneely to provide Cllr Harney with the timeline for the disposal of the elements of the portfolio.

W113Q4188 - Issues with phone signal in the new ward blocks at Portiuncula University Hospital:

Action: Ann Cosgrove to provide Cllr Alan Harney with the timeline for the remedial action in relation to the mobile phone coverage in the new 50 bedded ward block in PUH.

W113Q4189 – Advanced Paramedic Course and Specialist Paramedic Course:

Action: JJ McGowan to provide Cllr Alan Harney with a summary in relation to the pausing of the advanced paramedic course and the designing of the specialist paramedic course.

W113Q4190 - GP Services in Ballinasloe, Co Galway:

Action: Ann Cosgrove will see if there is more specific information available in relation to the 2 GP practices in Ballinasloe town.

W113Q4191 – Transfers of CDNT waiting list for Primary Care:

Action: Dermot Monaghan to revert to Cllr McMonagle regarding has the 39 transferred to Primary Care, transferred to a service as a waiting list and if so, what is the waiting time?

W113Q4198 - Spatial Development Plan for Roscommon University Hospital:

Action: Cllr Gareth Scahill has requested a draft copy of the Spatial Development Plan for Roscommon University Hospital be shared once available.

W113Q4199 – Temporary Consultant Posts at RUH:

Action: Ann Cosgrove to request a timeline for Cllr Gareth Scahill from the Public Appointment Service in relation to the recruitment process for the below posts at Roscommon University Hospital:

- Temporary Medical consultant Post - 1 WTE
- Temporary Consultant Radiologist Post - 1WTE
- Temporary Consultant Anaesthetist – 1WTE

W113Q4203 – Consultant Recruitment at Letterkenny University Hospital:

Action: Dermot Monaghan to provide Cllr Ciaran Brogan with the number of additional consultants employed in Letterkenny University Hospital since the new Consultant contract was enacted.

W113Q4205 – New Primary Care Centre in Dunfanaghy:

Action: Dermot Monaghan to liaise with Micheál Conneely to provide a response to Cllr Ciaran Brogan in relation to an update on the new Primary Care Centre in Dunfanaghy. Cllr Brogan noted that this project was not listed in the response to W113Q4205.

911/113/24 Motions:

W113M195 – HSE approval for the administration of medication Trodelvy to public hospitals:

This Motion was proposed by Cllr Greg Conway, seconded by Cllr Declan Bree and agreed by all Councillors present.

W113M196 - Proposed 42 bed ward extension at Sligo University Hospital:

This Motion was proposed by Cllr Declan Bree, seconded by Cllr Gary Doherty and agreed by all Councillors present.

912/113/24 Any other Business:

913/113/24 Date & Time of Next Meeting:

The next **Regional Health Forum Committee** Meeting will take place on Tuesday 10th December 2024 at 1pm in Roscommon.

The next **Regional Health Forum West** meeting will take place on Tuesday 25th February 2025 at 2pm.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach/Chairman

Adopted at the Regional Health Forum West meeting

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES RECEIVED
REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM WEST – 25TH FEBRUARY 2025

Number:	QUESTION	RAISED BY	Page No.
W114Q4210	NAS - advanced paramedics.	Cllr D Killilea	4
W114Q4211	The waiting times for Tuam X Ray unit.	Cllr D Killilea	4
W114Q4212	The status of the Tuam CNU registration with HIQUA.	Cllr D Killilea	4
W114Q4213	The status of Toghermore House, Tuam.	Cllr D Killilea	4
W114Q4214	Total number of ambulances call outs in Clare for 2024.	Cllr M Howard	5
W114Q4215	NAS Average time from call out to on scene and from scene to ED	Cllr M Howard	5
W114Q4216	Clare based NAS crews attended incidents in other counties.	Cllr M Howard	5
W114Q4217	NAS Number of call-outs in December, RHF West area.	Cllr M Howard	6
W114Q4218	Dentists taking medical card patients in Roscommon.	Cllr G Scahill	6
W114Q4219	Dental service for Roscommon Schools.	Cllr G Scahill	7
W114Q4220	Parking at Roscommon University Hospital.	Cllr G Scahill	7
W114Q4221	The recruitment of a second Respiratory Consultant at PUH.	Cllr E F Parsons	7
W114Q4222	PUH Maternity Unit Review.	Cllr E F Parsons	7
W114Q4223	Power outages - Cold Chain integrity for Vaccines.	Cllr E F Parsons	7-8
W114Q4224	HSE engagement in the legislative process for the Mental Health Bill 2024	Cllr E F Parsons	8
W114Q4225	Carrigeens Health Centre, Ballinful Co. Sligo	Cllr M Casserly	8
W114Q4226	MPUH paid parking system for Visitors.	Cllr S Forde	8-9
W114Q4227			9
W114Q4228	Barrier system at the top of the MPUH Back Gate Entrance.	Cllr S Forde	9
W114Q4229	Current system in place to deal with Grieving Families, replaced or updated?	Cllr S Forde	9
W114Q4230	Ballaghaderreen Primary Care Centre.	Cllr S Moylan	9
W114Q4231	HSE/ESB - A joint emergency response plan for vulnerable people?	Cllr S Moylan	9-10
W114Q4232	Detailed breakdown of total ED attendances, subsequent hospital admissions for 2024, age category breakdown	Cllr A Baker Bashua	10-11
W114Q4233	Total of daily discharges from acute hospitals in the RHF West Area during same period (from 1 st Oct 2024 to 31 st Dec 2024)	Cllr A Baker Bashua	11
W114Q4234	Average length of stay per Model 4 and Model 3 hospitals in the RHF West Area (from 1 st October 2024 to 31 st December 2024)	Cllr A Baker Bashua	12
W114Q4235	For Acute Hospitals RHF West Area, Dec 2024 - How many surge beds are available per hospital?	Cllr J Ryan	12-13

W114Q4236	For Acute Hospitals RHF West Area, How many surge beds were used in total per hospital (total figure for Dec 2024)?	Cllr J Ryan	13
W114Q4237	For Acute Hospitals RHF West Area, how many dates in December did hospitals utilise private acute capacity, per hospital for Dec 2024.	Cllr J Ryan	13-14
W114Q4238	For Acute Hospitals RHF West Area, Number of LIU attendances in Dec 2024.	Cllr J Ryan	14-15
W114Q4239	Vacancies at GP Practices/Services in Donegal.	Cllr G McMonagle	15
W114Q4240	Services for Vulnerable Persons where there is an electricity supply loss?	Cllr G McMonagle	15-16
W114Q4241	Update on Neurologist Services at LUH.	Cllr G McMonagle	16
W114Q4242	Copies of the audits/assessments carried out on all HSE primary care buildings completed in Donegal and updates.	Cllr D Meehan	16-17
W114Q4243	The current wait time for a first chemotherapy appointment in all hospitals in the HSE West and North-West Region.	Cllr D Meehan	18-19
W114Q4244	Donegal Home Support Service numbers.	Cllr D Meehan	19
W114Q4245	Occupational Therapists on primary care teams in Donegal, vacancies and wait times.	Cllr D Meehan	19-20
W114Q4246	The budget for disability services for Sligo and Leitrim.	Cllr F Gurn	21
W114Q4247	The budget for mental health services for Sligo and Leitrim.	Cllr F Gurn	21-22
W114Q4248	Respite Services, supports and resources available to Fostering families, families with special needs and carers in Inishowen, Riverwalk House respite void issues.	Cllr G McMonagle	22
W114Q4249	ShannonDoc Services, December 1st to January 4th, 2025, categories requested.	Cllr R McNerney	22-24
W114Q4250	The Day Care Centre service at Regina House, Kilrush.	Cllr R McNerney	24
W114Q4251	What contingencies are the HSE considering regarding 999 and 112 calls following the recent storms.	Cllr R McNerney	24
W114Q4252	PET scanner to serve the people of the Mid-West?	Cllr R McNerney	24-25
W114Q4253	HSE plan For Gurteen Health centre.	Cllr E McSharry	25
W114Q4254	HSE Plans in relation to the Carrigeens Health Centre.	Cllr E McSharry	25
W114Q4255	Breast screening mobile unit in Sligo town? Any plan to reinstate this service in Sligo?	Cllr E McSharry	25-26
W114Q4256	Pay and Numbers strategy in the HSE - staff needs analyses, staff ceiling HSE west and North west, for the MH services, (Sligo Leitrim South Donegal and West Cavan)	Cllr E McSharry	26-27
W114Q4257	The Masterplan for the UHG Campus.	Cllr M J Crowe	27
W114Q4258	Repair for the boundary wall at St Patricks Hospital in Carrick on Shannon	Cllr P Farrell	27
W114Q4259	Services and supports available to children bereaved by suicide in Limerick	Cllr E O'Donovan	28
W114Q4260	Homeless/rough sleepers presentation to UHL A & E services in the last 3 years	Cllr E O'Donovan	28

W114Q4261	CAMHS ID Service in Sligo; staff, referrals, used service since 19.11.2024, wait list.	CLlr D Bree	28-29
W114Q4262	Update regarding the hydrotherapy pool in Cregg House, Sligo.	CLlr D Bree	29
W114Q4263	Update on the Chronic Pain Service in Sligo University Hospital, wait list.	CLlr D Bree	29
W114Q4264	HSE Funding to voluntary bodies, service providers, community organisations, social service groups etc in (a) Sligo (b) Leitrim, 2023 and 2024.	CLlr D Bree	30-44
W114Q4265	Home help/care service in County Leitrim.	CLlr P Farrell	44
W114Q4266	How many children have been identified as requiring full time residential placements with diagnosis of I.D. and or Autism?	CLlr A Burke	44
W114Q4267	How many children/adults require respite provision and are still without this service, any plans for the expansion of respite services in Galway.	CLlr A Burke	44
W114Q4268	How many children with and I.D/Autism are availing of community support/homecare packages in lieu of respite/residential provision.	CLlr A Burke	45
W114Q4269	HSE plan for the ongoing provision and supports for the aging demographic of individuals with I.D/autism currently availing of residential services.	CLlr A Burke	45
W114Q4270	Tasks undertaken by home care personnel when attending at the homes of service users?	CLlr P Farrell	45
W114Q4271	Can we have an updated report on the capital programme in Donegal?	CLlr C Brogan	45-46
W114Q4272	Updated report on the current vacancy in our breast care services in LUH and when this will be filled?	CLlr C Brogan	46
W114Q4273	Temporary accommodation for the Donegal Hospice while the new proposed works takes place.	CLlr C Brogan	46

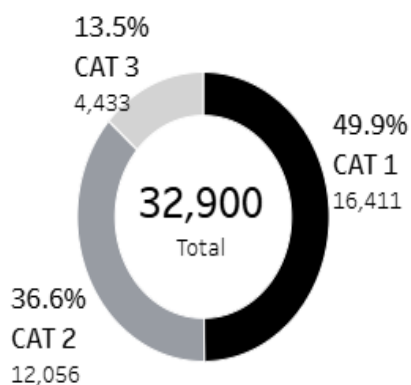
Number:	QUESTION	RAISED BY
W114Q4210	Can the NAS confirm how many advanced paramedics are being trained in 2024/2025 in Galway. Are there mobile advanced paramedics in dedicated response vehicles in the Galway bases and how do these numbers compare to the 2018 levels.	CLlr D Killilea
<p>Since the inception of the Advanced Paramedic Programme in 2004, there has been a considerable shift in patient needs. Twenty years on in 2025, 50% of all NAS patients are over 65 years while 33% are over 75 years. Less than one third of patients seen by NAS require hospital admission. The Advanced Paramedic Training and Education Standard increasingly does not meet the needs of these patients.</p> <p>To mitigate this issue, and ensure the total number of specialists remains consistent going forward, NAS having consulted with the trade unions, established a new role, sanctioned by the Department of Health, for Specialist Paramedic.</p> <p>As such NAS will concentrate its efforts in training specialist paramedics through 2025. In 2024/25 an additional 5 specialist paramedics have become operational across the region.</p> <p>Galway base operates a dedicated RRV on a 24/6.5 basis which takes 4 staff to operate. This is the same numbers as was in 2018.</p> <p>JJ McGowan, Chief Ambulance Officer - West</p>		
W114Q4211	Can the HSE confirm the waiting times for Tuam X Ray unit? Are there any additional hours being allocated.	CLlr D Killilea
<p>The Tuam X Ray Service is currently open two to three days per week from 9am to 5pm on a demand driven basis. There is currently no waiting list and service users are offered the next available appointment. GPs within the area have recently been updated with this information. Additional hours may be allocated in the future based on service demand.</p> <p>A Cosgrove, Integrated Health Area Manager, Galway Roscommon</p>		
W114Q4212	Can the HSE confirm the status of the Tuam CNU registration with HIQA?	CLlr D Killilea
<p>Further to your recent query on the bed availability in the Joe and Helen O'Toole Community Nursing Unit, below is the situation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The unit is a 50 bed CNU, all long stay beds. • The initial registration was issued for the 25 beds on the ground floor. • HIQA has issued a Proposed Notice of Decision to register 20 of the 25 beds on the first floor. There will still be five beds un-registered as there are some final works required on the outdoor spaces and these are scheduled. • We are now engaged with the INMO regarding the schedule of admissions to long term care beds in the unit. This will be a maximum of three per week as per the terms of the registration with HIQA. • Following Storm Éowyn a temporary arrangement was put in place to facilitate a number of Social Admissions to the first floor in the Joe & Helen O'Toole CNU, all short term. <p>A Cosgrove, Integrated Health Area Manager, Galway Roscommon</p>		
W114Q4213	Can the HSE confirm the status of Toghermore House, Tuam and next steps please?	CLlr D Killilea
<p>We continue to use the facilities on the grounds of Toghermore House for a number of services; National Counselling Services, Mental Health Services , Quality and Risk, Paediatric Outpatients, HR and Administration Support.</p> <p>There are proposals for the use of some of the lands by other services and Community amenities. We have not reached any agreement on the use of these lands at this point in time.</p> <p>A Cosgrove, Integrated Health Area Manager, Galway Roscommon</p>		

W114Q4214	Total number of ambulances call outs in Clare for 2024.	CIlr M Howard
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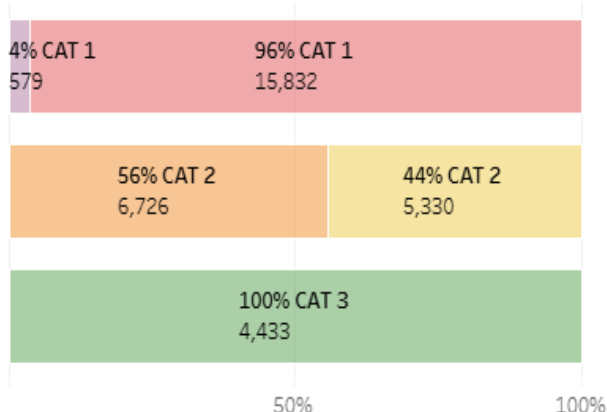
NAS report monthly on Purple and Red call activity, category AS1 (life threatening cardiac or respiratory arrest or life threatening other than cardiac or respiratory arrest) calls. Response times per county or IHA are not deemed a Key Performance Indicator (KPI) for the Health Information Quality Authority (HIQA), the Department of Health (DoH) or the National Ambulance Service (NAS). Therefore, reporting and publishing of response times on a county by county or IHA basis is not a requirement.

The National Ambulance Service HSE Mid West responded to a total of 32,900 calls in 2024

CALLS BY CATEGORY



CALLS BY CATEGORY AND COLOUR



Niall Murray, General Manager Area Operations, NAS

W114Q4215	NAS Average time from call out to on scene and from scene to ED	CIlr M Howard
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	Mobilisation – Arrival at scene – Ave time	Depart Scene – Arrival at Treatment Centre – Ave Time
NAS HSE Mid West 01 Jan – 31 Dec 24 (CAT 1)	22m 03s	27m 25s
NAS HSE Mid West 01 Jan – 31 Dec 24 (CAT 1, 2 & 3)	23m 02s	29m 54s

Niall Murray, General Manager Area Operations, NAS

W114Q4216	Number of times Clare based NAS crews attended incidents in other counties, what counties and number of incidents	CIlr M Howard
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In line with International Best Practice, the NAS operates a dynamic deployment model which results in the closest ambulance being tasked to respond to high acuity Purple calls (Life Threatening cardiac or respiratory) or Red calls (life threatening illness or injury other than cardiac or respiratory arrest). This call taking and dispatch function is operated by the NAS National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) which operates across two sites, Dublin and Ballyshannon. All NAS resources are dispatched to calls across the country from the NEOC on a nearest available (to the incident) basis and not on a county boundary basis.

KPIs are set based on the expected level of rising demand compared to the level of funded capacity available to respond to that demand. KPIs set out in the NSP are national aggregate targets rather than locality-based targets and reflect the geographical and rurality challenges and diversity faced in achieving such targets. Therefore, reporting and publishing of response times on a county by county or IHA basis is not a requirement.

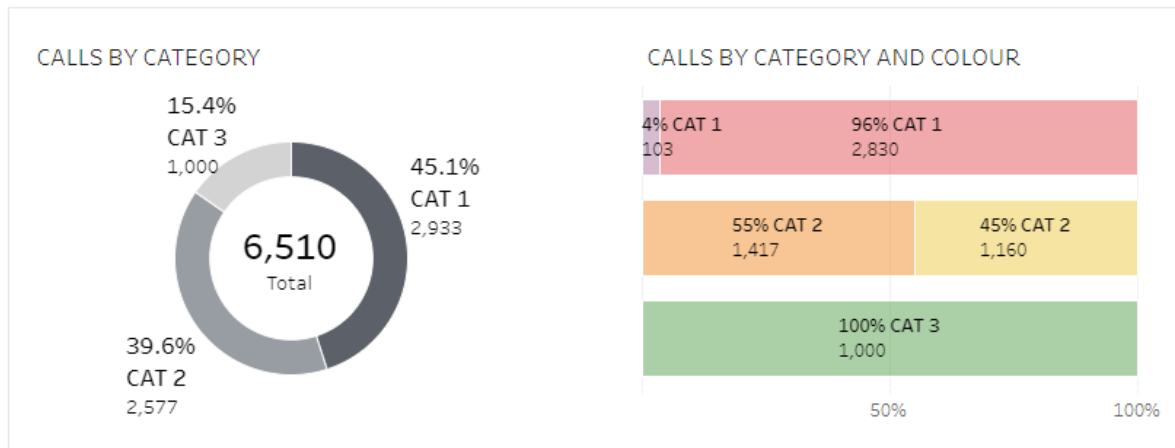
Niall Murray, General Manager Area Operations, NAS

W114Q4217	NAS Number of call-outs in December for all counties covered by RHF West Limerick to Donegal county by county	CIlr M Howard
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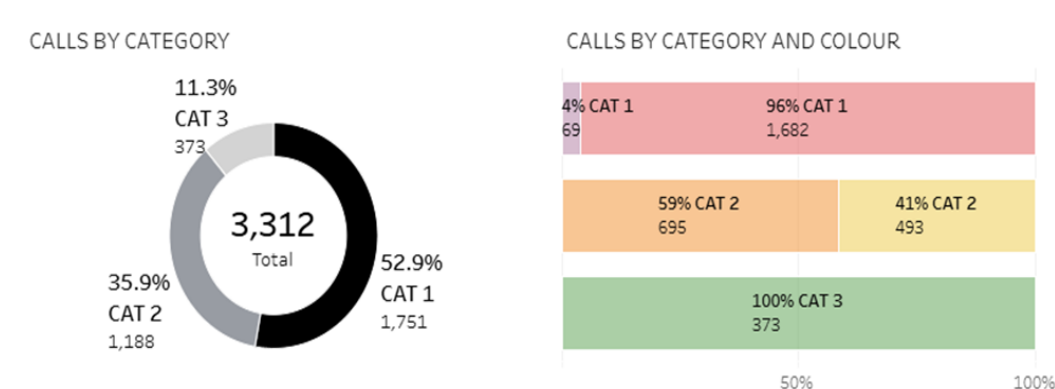
As response targets are national aggregate targets rather than locally based, reporting on call-outs and response performance is not carried out on a county-by-county basis.

Please see below regional data in terms of callouts for December.

West/North West



Mid-West



Niall Murray, General Manager Area Operations, NAS/ JJ McGowan, Chief Ambulance Officer - West

W114Q4218	Can the HSE confirm what dentist are taking medical card patients in Roscommon and what is the acceptable wait period for an appointment?	CIlr G Scahill
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The following dentists are taking medical card patients in Roscommon:

Athlone	Dr Daniel Harney – Westside Dental	090 6494110
Boyle	Dr Killian Vaughan / Dr Yasmin Ali	071 9670838
Castlerea	Dr Adrian Boyle	094 9622829
Roscommon Town	Dr Eleanor Keaveney	090 6627707

Please note, some dental practices are advising that they are at capacity at the moment and may not be able to take on new patients.

A Cosgrove, Integrated Health Area Manager, Galway Roscommon

W114Q4219	What dental services are being provided in Roscommon for School Children and are there plans in place to improve this service and increase capacity?	Cllr G Scahill
<p>Currently the dental services in Roscommon are providing checks to school children in 2nd class and 6th class.</p> <p>The dental service also provide emergency dental services up to age of 16.</p> <p>There is also a special needs dental services for adults and children in Roscommon.</p> <p><i>A Cosgrove, Integrated Health Area Manager, Galway Roscommon</i></p>		
W114Q4220	In November I asked about the future provision for Parking at Roscommon University Hospital and was told that a draft version of a Spatial Plan for this facility would be available in December, and when available would be issued to the members of this forum. Can you provide me with an update on the much-needed plans to facilitate more parking at this site?	Cllr G Scahill
<p>The Spatial Plan for the whole RUH campus is being developed and progressing in conjunction with Estates and a Design Team. Additional car parking for the site is a key part of the Spatial Plan and has been prioritised by RUH as an urgent and essential requirement in any future funding and development for the site.</p> <p><i>A Cosgrove, Integrated Health Area Manager, Galway Roscommon</i></p>		
W114Q4221	Please provide an update on the recruitment of a second Respiratory Consultant at PUH to urgently address the current patient waiting time from referral of 14 months.	Cllr E F Parsons
<p>Interviews are completed and the candidate is currently going through clearance – we currently have no agreed start date.</p> <p><i>A Cosgrove, Integrated Health Area Manager, Galway Roscommon</i></p>		
W114Q4222	In the interests of ensuring the highest standards of care for mothers and babies, with full transparency for public scrutiny and fairness, will the HSE, commit to publishing a public report promptly on the findings of ongoing reviews at the PUH Maternity Unit to include a compliance review of implementation of 2018 Walker Report Recommendations detailing an up to date assessment of current resource provision from governing structures to the unit leading from that report?	Cllr E F Parsons
<p>The ongoing reviews at the PUH Maternity Unit are specific to the care delivered to individual women and their infants. The HSE will be unable to publish those reports in full as the contents of each report will be specific to the women and baby involved and retaining their anonymity is paramount. Specific elements of the reports and recommendations may be published with the prior consent of the women.</p> <p>Following the publication of the 2018 Walker Report (which covers the period 2008 – 2014) all recommendations were implemented and overseen by a senior team which included representation from the Saolta Group and PUH management teams. In May 2019 the HSE National Acute Operations, Quality Assurance and Verification teams, and the National Women and Infants Health Programme (NWIHP) examined the progress made on implementing the recommendations. The validation team reported that good progress had been made by the Saolta Hospital Group in implementing the recommendations of the Walker Report, and ensuring the quality and safety of the maternity and neonatal services in PUH.</p> <p>The external management team placed in PUH will be working closely with the Maternity services team and overseeing the implementation of any recommendations made in the reviews that are currently in progress, as well as addressing other aspects of the service including governance, workforce, access and training and education needs.</p> <p><i>A Cosgrove, Integrated Health Area Manager, Galway Roscommon</i></p>		
W114Q4223	Considering the impacts of disruption to cold chain management on public health vaccination programs and the costs to the public purse of vaccine spoilage, what measures does the HSE have in place to ensure the integrity of the cold chain	Cllr E F Parsons

	during power outages or crises, including vaccine rescue, retrieval, and wastage disposal?	
<p>The supply and control of vaccines is managed by the National Immunisation Office in conjunction with service providers. The office has a dedicated inbox to manage queries from General Practitioners and other vaccination sites regarding the use of vaccines following power outages.</p> <p>In the aftermath of Storm Éowyn, more than 200 vaccination sites contacted this inbox and received information regarding their vaccine stock. The National Immunisation Office contacted every site in the country which receives vaccines, both in advance of the storm and while power outages continued, with advice on maintenance of the cold chain during power outages. Sites were advised on vaccines which could still be used and on the return process for damaged stock. Many sites were able to rescue vaccines by working closely with the Pharmacy Team within the National Immunisation Office. Damaged stock can be collected when a site receives a vaccine delivery, which is a fortnightly service. As necessary, vaccination sites were accommodated with emergency vaccine deliveries to replace any stock damaged due to power outages.</p> <p>Additionally, the HSE has in place a comprehensive guideline for the maintenance of cold-chain in vaccine fridges and management of vaccine stock.</p> <p>The purpose of the guideline is to define the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the maintenance of the cold chain in vaccine fridges and vaccine stock management, at vaccine storage sites. Additionally, the guideline outline a detailed standard operating procedure to be followed for management of breaks, such as power outages, in cold chain as well as wastage disposal. The guideline has been recently updated (dated August 2024)</p> <p>https://www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/hcpinfo/vaccineordering/sopnio01fridge.pdf</p>		
<i>A Cosgrove, Integrated Health Area Manager, Galway Roscommon</i>		
W114Q4224	Can the HSE confirm the extent of its engagement in the legislative process for the Mental Health Bill 2024 and provide comment in relation to the submission of the College of Psychiatrists of Ireland on their key concerns in the bill for delivery of mental health care and reform?	Cllr E F Parsons
We are awaiting a response from the office of the National Clinical Lead for Mental Health.		
W114Q4225	To request that a full report, including a structural survey be carried out on the Carrigeens Health Centre, Ballinful Co. Sligo, to ascertain what the plans are for the future of the building.	Cllr M Casserly
<p>Carrigeens Health Centre has been identified as surplus to HSE requirements. This property is currently being processed for disposal in accordance with the HSE's Protocol for Acquisition & Disposal of Property. In accordance with the HSE's Protocol and associated legislation the property will be offered for disposal in the following sequence:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Land Development Agency (LDA) 2. Prescribed State Entities (Ref: DPER Circular 17/2016) 3. The open market <p>In accordance with the HSE's Protocol for Acquisition & Disposal of Property Protocol and associated legislation Steps 1 and 2 above must be completed prior to offering the property to the open market. We are currently at Step 2 of the process and the Local Authority have expressed interest in the property.</p>		
<i>M Conneely, Assistant National Director, Capital & Estates</i>		
W114Q4226	Will Merlin park Hospital be implementing a paid parking system for Visitors in the future.	Cllr S Forde
The car park adjacent to the Outpatients building is designated as a patient parking area and there are two 'Pay and Display' machines in operation at this carpark. Parking charges will be aligned to those currently in operation at University Hospital Galway.		

The managing company will implement parking control measures and their staff are in place to assist patients and healthcare staff on the site.

Additional parking will be provided in the near future on the site as part of the Surgical Hub project.

A Cosgrove, Integrated Health Area Manager, Galway Roscommon

W114Q4227		
W114Q4228	When will the barrier system be in place at the top of the Merlin Gate Entrance.	Cllr S Forde

It is anticipated that the barriers inside the back gate will be in operation by May 2025.

The public are reminded that access to the hospital for patients and visitors remains via the front entrance only.

The rear entrance to Merlin Park continues to be designated for staff use only and access will be controlled using the new barrier system and back gates.

A Cosgrove, Integrated Health Area Manager, Galway Roscommon

W114Q4229	Will the current system that is currently in place to deal with Grieving Families be replaced or updated as the current system is totally designed not to deal with families concerns properly and is completely stacked against Families getting proper answers to questions and is not fit for purpose?	Cllr S Forde
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A Bereavement Officer is available in Galway University Hospitals to address concerns a family member may have following the death of a patient (their family member).

The Bereavement Officer is available 5 days a week and is available to follow up on any concerns the family may have. This may involve a meeting with key care givers or seeking relevant information on their behalf.

If the family feel their issues are not resolved, the family will be advised of the process which can be initiated via the Quality & Patient Safety Office where their concerns can be investigated as requested and a review may be undertaken if warranted.

A Cosgrove, Integrated Health Area Manager, Galway Roscommon

W114Q4230	Ballaghaderreen primary care centre, Has the project started by Mid January as promised? Can this Forum be furnished with a copy of the Full and Detailed Programme for works submitted by the developer? Can the very patient residents of Ballaghaderreen and the surrounding area be assured that they can still expect to see this facility opened within the next 2 years?	Cllr S Moylan
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An Agreement for Lease (AFL) was signed with a Developer in late 2024. However the Developer has failed to submit associated required documentation within the required timelines. The Developer has since confirmed they are not in a position to progress construction of the project. As such a new tender competition will be necessary to progress the project further.

M Conneely, Assistant National Director, Capital & Estates

W114Q4231	Can the HSE call on top management in the ESB to prioritise vulnerable people in the event of a national emergency, (as we saw in January), and also that the HSE work with the ESB to come up with a joint emergency response plan for these vulnerable people?	Cllr S Moylan
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In the first instance we acknowledge and understand the distress that the lack of power causes particularly to those most vulnerable in our society.

In advance of Storm Éowyn, HSE services considered the possible impacts on vulnerable clients and in so far as possible made alternative arrangements for their care. ESNB have a Vulnerable Customer policy and associated Vulnerable Customer Register in place.

There is a process in place for the HSE to engage directly with the ESNB in the context of prioritising health service requirements which was activated and utilised extensively during Storm Éowyn, this ensured that our main acute, residential and associated services were maintained but unfortunately due to the scale of the impact of Storm Éowyn a significant time before power was restored to some areas across the West, North West and Midlands was experienced by some people.

HSE services in so far as possible supported vulnerable clients during this difficult time a number of ways including working with partner agencies – Local Authorities, An Garda Síochána and the Voluntary Emergency Services to mitigate the effects of power outages.

As with all significant events a lessons learnt piece of work will be completed by agencies including the HSE and ESNB. This will ensure that these issues are considered in the context of our experience and learning from the impacts and scale of Storm Éowyn and will inform our planning going forward.

A Cosgrove, Integrated Health Area Manager, Galway Roscommon

W114Q4232	<p>That the HSE provide a detailed breakdown of total Emergency Department (ED) attendances and subsequent hospital admissions, categorised by age groups. For 2024 Specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total ED attendances, broken down into the following age brackets: Under 18, 18-74, and 75+. • Total hospital admissions resulting from ED attendances, also categorised by Under 18, 18-74, and 75+. <p>This data is essential for assessing service demand across different age groups and ensuring appropriate resource allocation within our healthcare system.</p>	Clr A Baker Bashua
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Please see below total ED attendances for 2024 broken down by age category as requested:

Total ED presentations for 2024			
	0-17	18-74	75+
January	1,662	4,289	1,119
February	1,667	4,238	947
March	1,883	4,426	1,067
April	1,714	4,217	1,019
May	1,798	4,404	1,102
June	1,513	4,329	1,072
July	1,430	4,433	1,168
August	1,302	4,554	1,105
September	1,588	4,690	1,060
October	1,659	4,844	1,194
November	1,743	4,657	1,116
December	2,166	4,884	1,307

Please see below total admissions from ED presentations for 2024 broken down by age category as requested:

Total ED admissions for 2024			
	0-17	18-74	75+
January	455	1,021	632
February	409	1,045	441
March	462	1,046	472
April	459	1035	507
May	427	1,105	524
June	330	1,046	503
July	363	1,047	540
August	263	1,132	524
September	392	1,131	534
October	398	1,193	573
November	389	1,031	548
December	458	1,136	670

I Carter, CEO Mid West Acute and Older People Services, HSE Mid West

W114Q4233	Total of daily discharges from acute hospitals in the Regional Health Forum West Area during same period (2024 - from 1 st Oct 2024 to 31 st Dec 2024)	Cllr A Baker Bashua
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Please see below the total number of patients discharged by hospital site for the period concerned.

Hospital	Oct 2024	Nov 2024	Dec 2024
Croom	207	192	185
UHL	2,520	2,329	2,426
Ennis	190	154	164
St John's	262	247	232
UMHL	547	512	552
Nenagh	145	137	135

I Carter, CEO Mid West Acute and Older People Services, HSE Mid West

Years	2024	Daily Discharges Oct to Dec 2024			
Discharges	Column Labels				
Row Labels	Oct	Nov	Dec	Grand Total	
Galway University Hospitals	1,563	1,582	1,640	4,785	
Letterkenny University Hospital	1,400	1,320	1,281	4,001	
Mayo University Hospital	991	963	951	2,905	
Portiuncula University Hospital	614	560	531	1,705	
Sligo University Hospital	1,098	1,157	1,139	3,394	
Grand Total	5,666	5,582	5,542	16,790	

A Cosgrove, Integrated Health Area Manager, Galway Roscommon/M Warde, Integrated Health Area Manager, Mayo/ J Fitzmaurice, Integrated Health Area Manager, Sligo, Leitrim, South Donegal, West Cavan/ D Monaghan, Integrated Health Area Manager, Donegal

Mayo University Hospital:

In December 2024 there were 18 beds available.

Portiuncula University Hospital:

7 escalation beds opened until the 27th December – following this date an additional 12 beds were opened

Sligo University Hospital:

Surge beds in SUH include 13 beds in AAU / onwards. Additionally 6 -8 beds in Day Services ward – staff dependent / results in cancellation of day case activity

A Cosgrove, Integrated Health Area Manager, Galway Roscommon/M Warde, Integrated Health Area Manager, Mayo/ J Fitzmaurice, Integrated Health Area Manager, Sligo, Leitrim, South Donegal, West Cavan/ D Monaghan, Integrated Health Area Manager, Donegal

W114Q4236	Can we get the following information for all the acute hospitals covered by the RHF west (UHL to Letterkenny) for the month of December 2024 (Dec 1 st to 31 st inclusive) How many surge beds were used in total per hospital during December (total figure for month)	CLlr J Ryan
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UL Hospitals Group - Not available at time of issue.

I Carter, CEO Mid West Acute and Older People Services, HSE Mid West

Total Surge by Month		
Years	2024	
Sum of Daily Surge	Column Labels	
Row Labels	Dec	Grand Total
Galway University Hospitals	564	564
Letterkenny University Hospital	148	148
Mayo University Hospital	344	344
Portiuncula University Hospital	51	51
Sligo University Hospital	286	286
Grand Total	1393	1393
data source PMIU		

A Cosgrove, Integrated Health Area Manager, Galway Roscommon/M Warde, Integrated Health Area Manager, Mayo/ J Fitzmaurice, Integrated Health Area Manager, Sligo, Leitrim, South Donegal, West Cavan/ D Monaghan, Integrated Health Area Manager, Donegal

W114Q4237	Can we get the following information for all the acute hospitals covered by the RHF west (UHL to Letterkenny) for the month of December 2024 (Dec 1 st to 31 st inclusive) On how many dates in December did hospitals utilise private acute capacity to relieve pressure on HSE facilities. (please specify per hospital rather than by region or county or other combination)	CLlr J Ryan
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HSE Mid West did not use private hospitals in December 2024 to manage surge/there being no medical beds available locally. HSE Mid West has in place a service level agreement with the private 50-bed Nenagh Rehabilitation Unit for patients requiring step-down rehab care. This service was in use every day of December. The HSE Mid West also uses contracted beds in private nursing homes across the region.

I Carter, CEO Mid West Acute and Older People Services, HSE Mid West

Mayo University Hospital:

Mayo University Hospital do not use private acute capacity. Our patients who use their private insurance for angio's or other private investigations in private clinics do not fall into this bracket.

M Warde, Integrated Health Area Manager, Mayo

Galway University Hospital:

GUH has utilised private capacity in the Bon Secours and Galway Clinic every day in December 2024.

Portiuncula University Hospital:

PUH did not utilise private beds.

A Cosgrove, Integrated Health Area Manager, Galway Roscommon

Sligo University Hospital:

No private capacity used.

J Fitzmaurice, Integrated Health Area Manager, Sligo, Leitrim, South Donegal, West Cavan

Letterkenny University Hospital:

No private acute capacity was utilised by Letterkenny University Hospital as there are currently no inpatient private acute facilities in Co. Donegal.

D Monaghan, Integrated Health Area Manager, Donegal

W114Q4238	Can we get the following information for all the acute hospitals covered by the RHF west (UHL to Letterkenny) for the month of December 2024 (Dec 1st to 31st inclusive) Number of LIU attendances in same period	Cllr J Ryan
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The table below shows the number of attendances in each of the Injury Units in the Mid West from Dec 1st –Dec 31st 2024. Attendances at our three Injury Units increased by a combined 9% in 2024.

Ennis	1,115
Nenagh	975
St Johns	1,275
Total	3,365

I Carter, CEO Mid West Acute and Older People Services, HSE Mid West

Please find completed return in RUH. You will note the injury Unit presentation for RUH for December. However to give it some context Injury Units can also have patients who present and are regarded as “out of protocol” – this means that we cannot treat them as they fall outside the list of injuries that can be treated at a Model 2/IU.

Injury Unit Presentations @ RUH		
Roscommon Injury Unit	DECEMBER 2024	TOTAL 2024 OUT-TURN
New Presentations	1047	14422
Review/Trauma Clinic	145	1896
<p style="text-align: center;">Out of Protocol Presentations</p> <p>(These are patients who arrive to RUH and who do not fall under the remit of what can be treated at an Injury Unit)</p> <p>These figures are not included in the figures above – these patients are advised of the situation and then directed to their GP, nearest ED and if they are very unwell and need immediate medical attention this is delivered and the Ambulance Service is called as ‘999’ to bring the patient to an ED</p>		
Out of Protocol Presentations	DECEMBER 2024	TOTAL 2024 OUT-TURN
Adult	235	2414
Child	20	377
Total	255	2791
Out of Protocol Presentations who required Ambulance Transfer Out		
Ambulance Transfer Out (999 call)	12	175

A Cosgrove, Integrated Health Area Manager, Galway Roscommon

W114Q4239	Can I have an update on the number of vacancies at GP Practices in Donegal, where these vacancy are and what steps are the HSE taking to fill the vacancies and ensure that GP Services in Donegal are accessible and available to all requiring them or is the HSE satisfied with the current GP Service it provides in Donegal?	ClIr G McMonagle
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There are currently no GMS GP vacancies in Co Donegal. There were seven GMS GP contracts processed by the Primary Care Development Unit for Donegal GPs in 2024. To date in 2025 there has been one GMS GP contract awarded in January with another contract to be issued in the coming week. It is very positive to see that vacancies are being filled in a timely manner including those within practices in more rural parts of the county. The Primary Care Development unit continues to offer ongoing support to GPs in organising and planning for future replacements. Vacant posts are widely advertised and details of all vacancies are circulated and communicated through the GP Community and the GP Training Schemes Network in Sligo and Donegal. The number of Doctors accepted into the GP Training Schemes across the country (including Donegal) has increased substantially in the last number of years, with plans for further increase in numbers over the next three years. The training schemes operate over a four year cycle and it is hoped that a number of the newly qualified GPs will be attracted to take up GP posts in Ireland and that the GP training programme will go some way to addressing GP shortages especially in rural areas.

In addition, the new 2023 GP Agreement includes measures to try and maintain GMS GP services in isolated rural communities including initiatives targeted at addressing hard to fill vacancies and initiatives addressing the current challenges of filling vacancies in rural and deprived areas.

D Monaghan, Integrated Health Area Manager, Donegal

W114Q4240	In the aftermath of Storm Eowyn and its impact on Vulnerable Persons under the care of the HSE or those citizens in need of an adequate supply of electricity for their life saving equipment has the HSE embarked on a review of how these Services can best be provided for during similar type weather conditions in the future were there is a electricity supply loss?	ClIr G McMonagle
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All HSE services including primary care, older persons, mental health, and disabilities, in so far as was possible, prepared in advance for the impacts of Storm Éowyn. Despite preparations put in place, the scale of this storm impacted all agencies in a way that was unprecedented resulting in interruption to power supplies and communications. Many services, including those provided by the HSE West and North West, were impacted as a result and whilst every effort available was made to support vulnerable clients before, during and after the storm, including the provision of generators, admissions to alternative settings with power and working with partner agencies – Local Authorities, An Garda Síochána and the Voluntary Emergency Services – it was not possible to fully mitigate the effects of the scale of the power outages and the challenges associated with same.

As with all significant events, a “lessons learned” piece of work will be completed by agencies including the HSE, ESNB and other statutory bodies. This will ensure that these issues are considered in the context of our collective experiences and learning from the impacts of a storm on the scale of Storm Éowyn and will inform emergency management planning going forward across the HSE West and North West area so that vulnerable persons can be supported to the greatest extent possible during any future storm events.

D Monaghan, Integrated Health Area Manager, Donegal

W114Q4241	Can I have an update on Neurologist Services at LUH, has the Full Time Neurologist for LUH announced in Oct 24 taken up their Post and what are the current Patient waiting times and numbers awaiting the Service?	Cllr G McMonagle
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LUH and the West North West Region welcomes the confirmed approval of a Consultant Neurologist and Clinical Nurse Specialist. This will significantly improve access to Neurology services for patients in Donegal.

Whilst LUH proceed with documentation to get formal approval at the Consultant Application Advisory Committee (CAAC) and subsequent permanent recruitment through the Public Appointment Service (PAS), LUH has in the interim interviewed a number of candidates and has offered a locum Consultant position to a successful candidate. This candidate has verbally accepted the position and is awaiting registration on the Specialist Division of the Irish Medical Council.

The SUH lead Neurology Service continues to hold 3 Consultant outpatient clinics in Letterkenny each week.

Clearances are currently in process with the Medical Workforce Department, so we expect a start date for end of Q2 of 2025.

Waiting times and numbers waiting are as follows:

Waiting Times	0-3 Months	3-6 Months	6-9 Months	9-12 Months	>12 Mts	TOTAL
Neurology	162	147	96	79	294	778

D Monaghan, Integrated Health Area Manager, Donegal

W114Q4242	Can we be provided with copies of the audits/assessments carried out on all HSE primary care buildings completed in Donegal (including Milford, Tamney, Kilmacrennan, Carrigart, Rathmullan and Ramelton) in 2023 and 2024, as well as updates on progressing resulting recommendations from same? These audits were carried out by members of the primary care management team, and architect from the estates team, as well as assessors from infection control.	Cllr D Meehan
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Attached is a detailed report on the information-gathering exercise conducted on all Primary Care Buildings during 2022/2023. This document provides a snapshot of their status at that time; however, various improvement initiatives have since led to further works and upgrades.

A follow-up review is planned to reassess and verify the current condition of the buildings. In addition to the ongoing appropriate maintenance efforts undertaken across Primary Care buildings in Donegal, the summary below outlines the updated status of certain buildings, including those referenced in the question.

Location	Update/ Comment
Milford	New fire alarm system and emergency lighting system installed 2023/2024. Additional clinic room put in place in 2024. Lighting & Window Upgrade completed in 2024. Oil tank replacement
Quigley's point	New fire alarm system and emergency lighting
Churchill	New fire alarm system and emergency lighting
Falcarragh	IPC works completed
Rathmullan	New fire alarm system and emergency lighting
Tamney	New fire alarm system and emergency lighting system in 2019. Full refurbishment recently completed
Ballintra	IPC works and flat roof upgrades
Carrigart	Lighting & Window Upgrade completed in 2024
Ramelton	Phone system upgrade completed in 2024.
Lettermacaward	Extensive refurbishment of building undertaken
Stranorlar Health Centre	Full IPC upgrade and new Kitchen installed and creation of a storeroom in 2023/2024
Annagry Health Centre	Interior upgrade
Malin Head	New clinic room and IPC upgrades
Creeslough	Lighting & Window Upgrade completed in 2024
Aranmore Health Centre	Lighting & Window Upgrade completed in 2024
Carrick Health Centre	Refurbishment of two clinic rooms
Cappry	No longer in use
Manor Resource Centre	No longer in use
Buncrana Medical Centre	No longer in use
Dunfanaghy Old Health Centre	Relocated to Dunfanaghy Primary Care Centre
Kilmacrennan	No longer in use
NoWDoc Letterkenny	No longer in use
Glencolmcille	No longer in use
Kilcar	No longer in use
Pettigo Old Health Centre	No longer in use

M Conneely, Assistant National Director, Capital & Estates

W114Q4243	What is the current wait time for a first chemotherapy appointment, from time of decision/consent to treat in all hospitals in the HSE West and North-West Region? What are the plans to reduce these wait times in each of the hospitals (particularly LUH)?	Cllr D Meehan
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SACT (Systemic Anti-Cancer Therapy) is any drug treatment used to control or treat cancer. The table below sets out the SACT Key Performance Indicators for HSE West North West hospitals.

	GUH	LUH	SUH	MUH	PUH
National Cancer Control Programme SACT KPI					
SACT KPI: For patients receiving a new parenteral systemic therapy in the day ward setting, the timeline between the date that it is agreed that the patient is deemed ready to treat and the administration of the new parenteral systemic therapy will not exceed 15 working days. This include haemato-oncology patients Target \geq 90%	62%	31%	76%	100%	78%

SACT activity in all of our units are challenged due to increased demand , increase in demand is multifactorial other than the predicted doubling of cancer incidence, including:

- new drugs increasingly approved for use
- development of immunotherapy and cellular therapies (CAR-T) and associated complexities
- Increased tolerability of new drugs meaning patients with comorbidities can now be treated but are more complex to treat
- With the development of more modern drugs, treatment cycles now last longer and often indefinitely
- Increased duration and complexity of infusion times
- Increased survival rates due to more effective treatments leading to increased requirement for more lines of subsequent treatment when cancer returns or progresses
- Patient survival has improved, but this is associated with significant increase in demand for cancer services in general and cancer treatments, particularly the Day Wards.

Medium - Long-term Plan to address capacity deficiency :

The National Cancer Strategy 2017 – 2026 and the National Development Plan 2021 – 2030 (NDP) are committed to major capital investment in cancer infrastructure nationally with investment in quality infrastructure within Saolta specifically called out in the NDP: *‘in accordance with balanced regional development, a cancer care network for the Saolta region (West, Northwest) with a Cancer Centre at Galway University Hospital, with appropriate infrastructure will be delivered’.*

The cancer centre infrastructure requirement at Galway University Hospital (GUH) is progressing as part of the Model 4 hospital site development.

The HSE West North West vision for cancer infrastructure in each of the model 3 hospitals is to develop appropriate Ambulatory Cancer Centres (ACC) at Letterkenny University Hospital, (LUH), Mayo University Hospital, (MUH), Portlincula University Hospital (PUH) and Sligo University Hospital (SUH) in line with the NDP.

Short-term plans (as below):

GUH plan in progress to add an additional 6 chairs

PUH plan to add an additional 2 chairs (q2 2025)

LUH added 4 additional treatment bays as an extension to the day ward situated on the in-patient floor

SUH have an interim day ward relocation identified that will increase capacity (part of new ward block build)

A Cosgrove, Integrated Health Area Manager, Galway Roscommon/M Warde, Integrated Health Area Manager, Mayo/ J Fitzmaurice, Integrated Health Area Manager, Sligo, Leitrim, South Donegal, West Cavan/ D Monaghan, Integrated Health Area Manager, Donegal

W114Q4244

In September 2024 there were 373 people in Donegal awaiting a new home support service or an increase in their current package of care. What are the numbers now in February 2025, and what measures have been taken by the HSE to reduce this?

Cllr D Meehan

As of 11th February 2025, there are 407 clients in Co. Donegal awaiting a new home support service or an increase in their current package of care. Please see below table for a breakdown of the current waiting list per network area.

Donegal Home Support Waiting List by Network Area	
Network Area	# Clients on Waiting List
East	116
Inishowen	44
North	75
South	172
Total	407

The HSE West North West Region has been provided with its own specified number of WTEs and can, within that approved number, replace, recruit and prioritise posts. This provides greater flexibility for Health Regions and national services to respond to the needs of the population and prioritise posts appropriately.

It is important to note, however, that although the resources allocated for Home Support Services across the system are substantial, they are finite; and service delivery must therefore be delivered within the funding available and remain within the Pay and Numbers Strategy.

D Monaghan, Integrated Health Area Manager, Donegal

W114Q4245

How many Occupational Therapists are currently employed on primary care teams in Donegal, how many vacancies are there, and what is the current wait time for an appointment with an OT? What plans are being utilised to improve this?

Cllr D Meehan

Number of Occupational Therapists (OTs) currently employed on primary care teams in Donegal

The Primary Care and Social Care Occupational Therapy Service provides community-based assessment and intervention to the people of Donegal. The following data pertains to this service as a whole, as the service strives to work in an integrated manner across the care divisions of Primary Care, Disability Services and Older Persons Services. Please note that WTE approved staffing relates only to those posts considered approved under the HSE Pay & Numbers Strategy, and does not include unoccupied posts prior to 31st December 2023.

Posts Approved and Filled in Primary Care

Primary Care OT WTE	
Total WTE	33.9 WTE
Posts approved & filled in PC	25.9 WTE
Vacant WTE	8

*We are aware of further upcoming vacancies in paediatric services, which will see a further reduction of 2 WTE Senior OTs by April 2025.

Social Care (Disabilities & Older Persons) Staffing

Social Care OT WTE	
Total WTE	7 WTE
Posts approved & filled in Social Care	4 WTE
Vacant WTE	3 WTE

Wait times for an OT appointment

Wait Time	CHN Donegal	Paeds (County)	Non-PC	Total
Wait Time: ≤ 12 weeks	36	1	3	40
Wait Time: >12 weeks ≤ 26 weeks	7	17	1	25
Wait Time: >26 weeks ≤ 39 weeks	11	39	3	53
Wait Time: >39 weeks ≤ 52 weeks	19	21	2	42
Wait Time: > 52 weeks	288	12	16	316
	361	90	25	476

Plans to address these issues

In light of the vacancy rates within all services across the community in Donegal, the following actions have been undertaken to enable occupational therapy staff to safely continue to provide a quality, client-centred service to the people of Donegal who are presenting with highest clinical need:

- Contingency Plan for Adult Primary Care OT Service implemented since September 2024, which outlines a number of actions and priority measures.
- OT Managers currently providing clinical cover for the Specialist Seating Service.
- Escalation of risk assessments to senior management to outline the risk issues pertaining to continued OT Service provision.
- Plan to complete waitlist validation by mid-2025 for Paediatric Primary Care Services.
- Employment of agency OT to assist with Intellectual Disability Services and completion of Housing Adaptation Grant Assessments.
- Implementation of triage and prioritisation initiatives within Primary Care Adult OT services to increase clinical capacity.
- Caseload management reviews and professional supervision for OTs by OT managers.
- Review of referral data to inform service planning and allocation of limited resources by management team.
- Staff health and wellbeing initiatives to support staff to perform their duties safely.
- Engagement with union for support and clarity on service planning.
- Reallocation of clinical resources due to planned and unplanned leave.

The HR department in Integrated Healthcare Area Cavan Donegal Leitrim Monaghan Sligo, in collaboration with ATU, are funding a bursary for OT students who are then committed to working for the HSE for two years on graduation. The next cohort is due to graduate in June of this year. There is a rolling local recruitment campaign for OTs to fill approved, funded posts.

Occupational Therapy are fully committed to providing health care to all eligible patients, however it is important to note that the service must be delivered within the resource allocation and funding available, with the level of activity and associated costs being managed in a way that ensures people with the greatest need are supported within the overall expenditure of the delivery of services while not exceeding the available funding allocated.

D Monaghan, Integrated Health Area Manager, Donegal

W114Q4246	<p>The disability budget of the HSE is not dealing with real issues facing families on the ground having family members to cater for with disabilities .This budget has been overlooked by successive governments not allocating significant budgets to make a serious impact in this sector .So I ask new minister for health to allocate bigger budget to HSE of their 14b budget.</p> <p>Can the minister for disability tell us what the budget for disability services is for Sligo and Leitrim, and has the budget been decreased or increased on previous years?</p>	Cllr F Gurn
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Please see the tables below, which contain the requested information pertaining to the annual budgets of Sligo Leitrim Disability Services, for the years 2023 to 2025, inclusive.

Annual budget for Sligo Leitrim Disability Services for the years 2023 – 2025, inclusive.

Year	Budget Allocation
2023	€90,156,800
2024	€99,007,742
2025	€102,219,962

Year on year increases in the annual budget for Sligo Leitrim Disability Services for the years 2023 – 2025, inclusive.

Year	Increase in Budget Allocation
2023 - 2024	€8,850,942
2024 - 2025	€3,212,220

J Fitzmaurice, Integrated Health Area Manager, Sligo, Leitrim, South Donegal, West Cavan

W114Q4247	<p>The budget for people dealing with mental health issues and trying to get access to address urgent problem in our society need to be allocated real funding to make a change in this sector of budget for health .</p> <p>Can the minister for mental health tell us the budget for mental health services is for Sligo and Leitrim, and has the budget been decreased or increased on previous years?</p>	Cllr F Gurn
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In 2023 Sligo Leitrim Mental Health Services (SLMHS) were allocated a budget of €30.618 million. The 2024 budget allocated was €31.87million. We have not yet received formal notification of the 2025 budget allocation.

In 2025 the Government announced an additional €16million allocation in Ireland for the enhancement and expansion of services.

Under Sláintecare recommendations the Government has set a target for mental health funding to be at 10% of overall health spend.

The overriding requirement continues to be the prioritisation of the delivery of safe and effective services and continued improvement on other aspects of quality including patient and service user experiences.

SLMHS are innovative with a proven track record of new service delivery. Please see below some examples of recent service innovations that form part of National Clinical Programmes.

Feedback from clients who have utilised these teams has been overwhelmingly positive;

- Crisis Team
- Early Intervention Psychosis
- Eating Disorders team
- ADHD Adult Team
- Liaison mental Health for Older Persons
- Memory Assessment and Support Services

J Fitzmaurice, Integrated Health Area Manager, Sligo, Leitrim, South Donegal, West Cavan

W114Q4248	What is the current position in relation to provision of supports and resources available to Fostering families ,families with special needs and carers in Inishowen deemed close to "burn out and how are the Respite void issues at Riverwalk House and Inishowen currently being addressed and when will Respite Services recommence for the community in Inishowen?	Cllr G McMonagle
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Disability Services Respite Service Provision, Inishowen

Donegal Disability Services are planning to reopen the respite service at Riverwalk Respite House, Carndonagh, four days per week, from the 3rd of April 2025. Further recruitment to approved positions will allow for further extension of the service.

The following outlines the status of the outstanding Riverwalk Respite House positions to be filled as advised by the HSE Human Resources department:

- Healthcare Assistants (HCA): One HCA post is on boarded and the second HCA post is at post acceptance stage of recruitment.
- Staff Nurse: No interest has been expressed in the vacant staff nurse position in Riverwalk Respite House from the existing staff nurse panel held by the HSE Human Resources department. The HSE Human Resources department are extending the search to additional staff nurse panels in Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Cavan, and Monaghan Community Services.

Once the above positions are filled, Donegal Disability Services plan to expand respite service provision in Riverwalk Respite House to seven days per week.

D Monaghan, Integrated Health Area Manager, Donegal

W114Q4249	In Relation to ShannonDoc Services, can the HSE provide information for the weeks: December 1st to 7th 2024 / December 8th to 14th, 2024 / December 15th to 21st 2024 / December 15th to 21st 2024 / December 22nd to 28th , 2024 / December 29th, 2024 to January 4th, 2025, on the following figures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Total Number of calls taken by Shannondoc during December and how many of these were seen by a doctor. b. Total number of doctor hours worked. c. Which locations were open in the Mid West and for how many hours. d. How many are GP's are signed up to Shannondoc at present. 	Cllr R McInerney
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The HSE has a Service Level Agreement (SLA) in place with ShannonDoc for the provision of Out of Hours GP services to GMS (medical card) patients across the Mid West region. Under the terms of the SLA, the HSE provides an agreed level of funding to ShannonDoc for the provision of Out of Hours GP services and ancilliary services across the HSE Mid West area (Limerick City & County, Co. Clare and Nth. Tipperary). The HSE can confirm that ShannonDoc are fully compliant with their KPI's and the agreed out of hours arrangements. ShannonDoc has provided the following information in response to the queries outlined above for the period 1st December 2024 to 4th January 2025 incl.:

(a) Total number of calls taken by ShannonDoc during December and how many of these were seen by a Doctor?

Week	Total no. of contacts received by ShannonDoc	Total no. of patients treated/seen by a Doctor
01/12/2024-07/12/2024	2189	2146
08/12/2024-14/12/2024	2399	2350
15/12/2024-21/12/2024	3141	3064
22/12/2024-28/12/2024	4728	4592
29/12/2024-04/01/2025	3466	3380

(b) Total number of doctor hours worked?

Week	Total no. of doctor hours worked
01/12/2024-07/12/2024	826
08/12/2024-14/12/2024	826
15/12/2024-21/12/2024	826
22/12/2024-28/12/2024	826
29/12/2024-04/01/2025	826

(c) Which locations were open in the Mid West and for how many hours?

Location of Treatment Centres & Operating Times	
Location of Treatment Centre	Operating times/hours (Sat/Sun = Saturday & Sunday)
<u>Limerick</u>	
Dooradoyle	Monday to Friday: 6 p.m. to 8 a.m.
	Sat/Sun & Bank Holidays: 8 a.m. to 8 a.m.
Hospital	Monday to Friday: 8 p.m. to 11 p.m.
	Sat/Sun & Bank Holidays: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Newcastle West	Monday to Friday: 6 p.m. to 2 a.m.
	Sat/Sun & Bank Holidays: 9 a.m. to 2 a.m.
<u>Nth. Tipperary</u>	
Nenagh	Monday to Friday: 6 p.m. to 8 a.m.
	Sat/Sun & Bank Holidays: 8 a.m. to 8 a.m.
Thurles	Monday to Friday: 6 p.m. to 11 p.m.
	Sat/Sun & Bank Holidays: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Roscrea	Sat/Sun & Bank Holidays: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
<u>Clare</u>	
Ennis	Monday to Friday: 6 p.m. to 8 a.m.
	Sat/Sun & Bank Holidays: 8 a.m. to 8 a.m.
Shannon	Sat/Sun & Bank Holidays: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Miltown Malbay	Monday to Friday: 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.
Kilrush	Sat/Sun & Bank Holidays: 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.
Ennistymon	Sat/Sun & Bank Holidays: 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

(d) How many GPs are signed up to ShannonDoc at present?

ShannonDoc is a private co-operative which is owned and part funded by 170 members (i.e. General Practitioners) located across counties Limerick, Clare and North Tipperary.

I wish to advise that under the Winter Support Measures for General Practice Services 2024/2025, the HSE provided additional funding to all of the grant funded GP Co-ops across the country. This exceptional measure enabled GP Co-ops to roster additional doctors in Out of Hours Treatment Centres between 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. (Monday to Sunday incl.) between the 27th December 2024 to 26th January 2025 incl. and it ensured that more patients would receive in person consultations at ShannonDoc Treatment Centres.

The additional funding allocated to the Mid West under this measure was €108,000 with €72,000 made available to ShannonDoc and €36,000 to Limerick Doc.

ShannonDoc have confirmed that during the period 27th December 2024 to 26th January 2025, they rostered 710 additional doctor hours. They also confirmed that the total number of contacts to ShannonDoc increased by 34% when compared to the same period last year, in person consultations at Treatment Centres increased by 36% and the referral rate to ED is similar to the same period last year.

Maria Bridgeman, IHA Manager, HSE Mid West

W114Q4250	When will the Day Care Centre service at Regina House, Kilrush be reinstated and returned to operation?	Clr R McNerney
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Prior to 2020, the Day Centre in Regina House operated five days per week, providing services to older persons in West Clare. These services were temporarily closed in 2020 due to public health restrictions as part of the response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

In mid-2022, a decision was made to reopen the Day Centre. However, due to staffing challenges this has not happened to date.

We have been in contact with voluntary agencies in Clare with a view to providing day services to older adults, including people with dementia, from Regina House. An options appraisal has been completed to determine the best approach to the operation of the day centre and will be considered this month.

I Carter, CEO Mid West Acute and Older People Services, HSE Mid West

W114Q4251	What contingencies are the HSE considering regarding 999 and 112 calls following the recent storms where hundreds of thousands of people could not reach the service during landline and mobile phone coverage outages?	Clr R McNerney
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The Department of the Environment, Climate and Communication is responsible for the Emergency Call Answering Service (ECAS) is responsible for 112 and 999 calls and texts, providing a vital link between the caller and the Emergency Services (Garda, Fire, Ambulance and the Coast Guard).

ECAS is a Stage 1 Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP). Its role is to establish the Emergency Service being requested by a caller and the location of the caller or incident for the purpose of routing the call to the most appropriate Emergency Services centre.

The Communications Regulation (Amendment) Act 2007 provides for the establishment and operation of the ECAS and enables the Minister to enter a contract with an entity to provide the service. BT Communications Ireland Limited (BTCIL) currently holds the contract to operate the service.

As such, queries on infrastructure should be directed to the relevant government department, Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications.

Niall Murray, General Manager Area Operations, NAS

W114Q4252	As the only city in Ireland without a PET scanner, are there plans for such a facility to be located in Limerick in order to serve the people of the Mid-West?	Clr R McNerney
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Plans have been developed for the provision of a PET scanner in the Mid West and will be subject to funding availability in 2025/2026.

I Carter, CEO Mid West Acute and Older People Services, HSE Mid West

W114Q4253	What is the HSE plan For Gurteen Health centre, what are the plans to expand their services and facilities and what plans are there to address the current shortage of space?	Cllr E McSharry
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The HSE are continuing to review options in relation to Gurteen Health Centre. There are significant challenges given the footprint of the building and the need to accommodate expanded GP Practice/HSE PHN Services and Day Centre within the building. There is no easy solution to facilitating the extra space required on this site within our current financial position but we are committed to continuing to look at options that may be feasible.

J Fitzmaurice, Integrated Health Area Manager, Sligo, Leitrim, South Donegal, West Cavan

W114Q4254	What are the HSE Plans in relation to the Carrigeens health centre closed during Covid 19 pandemic and now vacant. Is there plans to sell this building and fund the local Maugherow community centre to deliver the day care services that the Carrigeens centre previously delivered to the local community?	Cllr E McSharry
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Carrigeens Health Centre has been identified as surplus to HSE requirements. This property is currently being processed for disposal in accordance with the HSE's Protocol for Acquisition & Disposal of Property. In accordance with the HSE's Protocol and associated legislation the property will be offered for disposal in the following sequence:

1. The Land Development Agency (LDA)
2. Prescribed State Entities (Ref: DPER Circular 17/2016)
3. The open market

In accordance with the HSE's Protocol for Acquisition & Disposal of Property Protocol and associated legislation Steps 1 and 2 above must be completed prior to offering the property to the open market. We are currently at Step 2 of the process and the Local Authority have expressed interest in the property.

All proceeds from the disposal of assets must be remitted to the Department of Health.

M Conneely, Assistant National Director, Capital & Estates

As Carrigeens Health Centre is deemed no longer suitable as a day centre for older persons, the HSE plans to relocate the service to a potential new location in Maugherow.

To facilitate this, the HSE has been exploring a service level agreement for delivering day services at Maugherow Community Centre. The centre requires upgrade works and Sligo LEADER has been supporting Maugherow Community in the development of a parish committee to run the facility and to support the committee in applying for relevant grants. The committee has been actively seeking grants and is currently awaiting the outcome of the applications for funding.

A day service is currently operating in the North Sligo area in Cliffoney on 3 days per week (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday) which has availability to support additional attendees on all days. Clients can either self-refer to this service or a public health nurse can refer them.

J Fitzmaurice, Integrated Health Area Manager, Sligo, Leitrim, South Donegal, West Cavan

W114Q4255	Why is there no longer a mobile Breast screening mobile unit in Sligo town? Is there plan to reinstate this service in Sligo town or County?	Cllr E McSharry
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BreastCheck is Ireland's free breast screening programme. We screen women who have no symptoms of breast cancer so that we can find and treat breast cancer at the earliest possible stage. We aim to invite women for their first screening test by the age of 52 - in some cases it will be 53; and every two to three years after that, up to the age of 69. We provide access to

appropriate care for those who need further tests and treatment. We work to make BreastCheck services accessible to all; for example, providing longer or group appointments, and information in braille and international languages.

We have four BreastCheck static screening units and 24 mobile clinics across the country. Since 2020, we have introduced three additional mobile units to increase capacity. We are looking at introducing more units to further reduce barriers for women, enabling greater access to screening. We update our breast screening locations regularly on our [website](#).

Mobile clinics enable us to provide breast screening for more women across the country. They typically stay at a location for between three months and two years and we invite eligible women living in the area for screening. The units then move to another location, where we invite eligible women in that area. We work to ensure that women have an equal and equitable opportunity to attend screening close to where they live. Our website provides more information on our [mobile units and how they improve access for women](#).

Most recently, a mobile unit was in Sligo town from October 2021 to March 2023. The unit was in Sligo town for a longer period than normal so that women in both Sligo and Leitrim who were due for screening could attend. We screened in Tubbercurry from April 2023 to March 2024 and the mobile unit has been in Carrick-on-Shannon since then. We plan for the mobile unit to move to Sligo town during the second half of 2025. Women in the area can also attend for screening in Ballina or Galway.

Women who have been unable to take up a previous screening invitation can contact the BreastCheck Western Unit on 091 580 600, Monday to Friday between 8am–5pm, and we will aim to find the most suitable place, date and time for them to attend.

National Screening Service

W114Q4256	The pay and Numbers strategy in the HSE was to provide greater transparency. The capped ceiling for staff was to be 125,420 whole-time equivalent positions and 2300 for additional posts for new staff developments across 26 counties and 6 Health regions. Following over 6 months of implementing this strategy. Has the staff needs analyses been carried out in each health region? What is the staff ceiling quota for HSE west and North west? and for example what is the staff ceiling for the Mental health services (Sligo Leitrim South Donegal and West Cavan?	CLlr E McSharry
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The establishment of Health Regions allows each area to plan and deliver services around the specific needs of people in each area, and to provide a consistent quality of care across the country. Each region has its own budget, leadership team and responsibility for local decision-making.

The HSE recruitment embargo ended on Monday 15th July 2024 with the release of a Pay and Numbers Strategy. This was approved by the Department of Health and the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform. This provides for a new approved maximum Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) staff figure for the HSE and Section 38 Agencies of 129,753. (This excludes disability services, pre-registration nursing and midwifery students, and 76 special assignment temporary posts). The figure of 129,753 includes an additional 3,310 new service development posts.

The HSE North West Region has been provided with its own specified number of WTEs and can, within that approved number, replace, recruit and prioritise posts. The Health Regions have been actively working to fill posts via Agency conversion, new Development Posts and vacancies arising in 2024.

Workforce reports are analysed on an ongoing basis and are also published on the HSE website. These reports are updated on a monthly basis and provide data on the health service personnel and WTE census. The Health Service Personnel Census WTE as of the 31st December 2023 for the West and North West region (excluding service development posts) is 23,417. This

is the WTE limit in the context of the Pay and Numbers Strategy for the region, excluding service development posts. No individual staff ceiling is set for specific care groups or services.

Clinical leads within services are required on an ongoing basis to consider the staffing resource available to them in their respective areas and to take the appropriate measures within their teams to adapt to the non-replacement of staff.

Recruitment is continuing across our services in the context of the WTE limits applicable. These includes clinical and clerical/management/administrative roles. Service development posts approved in 2024 and New Service development posts for 2025 are also being progressed to recruitment in the context of the National Service Plans. These include posts attached to our Mental Health Services across the region.

M Ferguson, Regional Director of People HSE West and North West

W114Q4257	Can it be outlined where exactly the Masterplan for the UHG Campus is presently at, and further outline in detail, the phases or stages and pathway to its completion, including all relevant timelines.	Cllr M J Crowe
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Based on the findings of a demand modelling study, a Development Control Plan (DCP) for the University Hospital Galway (UHG) Campus is in final draft and represents a Masterplan for development of the Campus to 2045. A draft of the DCP, addressing all feedback received to date, is due to be completed in the first Quarter of 2025.

Considerable enabling, decanting and site clearance works are required to facilitate delivery of the major projects and these have been identified as distinct package of work.

All infrastructure projects are subject to the requirements of the Public Spending Code and the associated Infrastructural Guidelines (IG). Given the scale of investment required a number of proposed projects at UHG will constitute 'Major Projects' (i.e. will have an estimated capital cost in excess of €200 million) and as such will require additional approvals including review by the Major Projects Advisory Group and Government Approval.

It is intended that a Strategic Assessment Review (SAR) for the DCP be submitted to the HSE and the Department of Health for review and comment in Q2 2025. A Business Consultant has now been appointed to assist in preparing this SAR.

Individual projects are then intended to proceed on a phased basis in accordance with the sequencing described in the DCP. A tender is currently being prepared to appoint a single Business Consultant to progress all individual projects through further stages of the Infrastructure Guidelines, starting with preparation of PBC's.

Tender competitions to set up a number of new Design Team Frameworks - to progress all projects including enabling works - are also currently being prepared. It is intended that all consultants/Design Team members to progress the major projects and related enabling works will be appointed over the course of Q2/Q3 2025.

Progress and completion of the major scope of work set out as the 'mid state' projects in the DCP in a timely fashion will be dependent on the relevant approvals being obtained, on availability of required funding, and on the provision of sufficient internal resources to manage the design and construction processes in an effective manner.

M Conneely, Assistant National Director, Capital & Estates

W114Q4258	I ask the HSE if they will repair the boundary wall at St Patricks Hospital in Ck ON Shannon CO Leitrim as it is in very poor dangerous condition.	Cllr P Farrell
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The boundary wall is currently overgrown with deep vegetation. An external contractor is due to begin removing the vegetation before the end of February. This will allow access for our Maintenance team and Structural engineer to assess the structural condition of the wall.

M Conneely, Assistant National Director, Capital & Estates

W114Q4259	What services and supports are available to children bereaved by suicide in Limerick and ask if HSE provide funding towards the Children Grief Centre?	Cllr E O'Donovan
<p>In Limerick there are a range of suicide bereavement supports for children and adults as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The HSE Mid West employs two Resource Officers for Suicide Prevention, one of whom covers Limerick city and county. Pieta Suicide also employs a Bereavement Liaison Officer for the Mid West who works with both adults and children. Blue Box Creative Learning Centre are a charity based in Limerick providing supports to children including suicide bereavement support. Further information is available on www.bluebox.ie Healing Untold Grief Gently (HUGG) are a national suicide bereavement support group funded by the National Office for Suicide Prevention. They hold a bimonthly support group in Limerick city. While this is for adults only, if adults are supported they will in turn be able to support children. An illustrated story book, Safe Harbour, supporting children who have been bereaved by suicide, is now available online through the following link - https://www.childhoodbereavement.ie/safeharbour. Written by Patricia Forde and illustrated by visual artist Bronagh Lee, this free new HSE resource will empower parents or carers to have difficult conversations safely with their child around this sensitive topic. Limerick Bereavement Network is a group of organisations in the Limerick area that provide general bereavement supports, There are a range of other agencies that will support children and young people bereaved by suicide while these services are not specifically focused on suicide bereavement, they include Family Resource Centres, Jigsaw, and Limerick Youth Services. <p>Children's Grief Centre Funding:</p> <p>The Children's Grief Centre provides support to children and young people affected by loss through death, separation or divorce. It also offers a safe and supportive listening service for children, young people and their families who are grieving. The Children's Grief Centre moved to their new location at Mount St. Vincent, O'Connell Avenue, Limerick in 2023.</p> <p>The HSE Mid West provides €15,000 core funding to the Children's Grief Centre annually. In addition to the core funding, the HSE Mid West also allocated an additional €30,000 once off payment in both 2024 and 2025. This additional funding was allocated in recognition of the valuable service provided by the Centre in supporting children and families across the Mid West.</p> <p>The HSE received approval to provide €450,000 to the Children's Grief Centre towards the cost of their new Centre in O'Connell Ave. These monies will be transferred to the Grief Centre as soon as ongoing legal issues have been resolved.</p> <p>Maria Bridgeman, IHA Manager, HSE Mid West</p>		
W114Q4260	I will ask how many presentations to UHL accident and emergency services in the last 3 years were rough sleepers or other homeless people and would UHL benefit from a homeless liaison nurse similar to other hospitals?	Cllr E O'Donovan
<p>It is not possible to provide accurate data in relation to the number of rough sleepers/homeless persons who have presented to the Emergency Department at UHL as these service users may be accessing temporary or emergency accommodation or may not always provide a correct address.</p> <p>There is a Social Inclusion nurse in post in UHL to support patients accessing homeless services/other relevant supports.</p> <p>I Carter, CEO Mid West Acute and Older People Services, HSE Mid West</p>		
W114Q4261	Noting that an Agency Mental Health Intellectual Disability (MHID) Consultant took up duty on the 19th of November 2024, enabling the HSE to provide a CAMHS ID Service in Sligo, can the Forum now be informed as to (1) how many staff have been allocated to the CAHMS ID Service Team; (2) how many children and adolescents have been referred and used the service in the period since the 19th November 2024; (3) how many children and adolescents are on the waiting list.	Cllr D Bree

The position for a CAMHS MHID Consultant was initially filled with a consultant from an agency. The Consultant commenced on 19th November 2024, they then left the post on 26th November 2024 before any children or adolescents could be seen.

A further request was issued to agencies regarding the filling of the post, however there has been no recruitment to date.

The post continued to be advertised until 31st January 2025 when an application was received; recruitment is now progressing to the next stage with interviews being arranged.

This Consultant when appointed will require a CAMHS ID Multidisciplinary team to provide this clinical service alongside the CAMHS MHID Consultant. We will have to examine ways to give this support.

The referrals for these children are currently not being accepted.

J Fitzmaurice, Integrated Health Area Manager, Sligo, Leitrim, South Donegal, West Cavan

W114Q4262	That the Forum be provided with an update regarding the hydrotherapy pool in Cregg House, (Sligo), and what progress has been made with regard to the HSE having use of the pool in the current year.	Cllr D Bree
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Community Services Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Sligo (CS CDLMS) Disability Services management met with the Head of Operations for Rosses Punto on July 16th, 2024, regarding re-opening of the hydrotherapy pool at the former Cregg campus. Rosses Punto had agreed, in principle, to re-open the hydrotherapy pool for an interim period of six months at that point. However CS CDLMS Disability Services could not meet the cost of what was being sought by Rosses Punto from within its existing allocated budget and the service could not recommence. Funding has not been allocated as per the 2025 national budgetary allocation process to re-open the hydrotherapy pool at the former Cregg campus.

J Fitzmaurice, Integrated Health Area Manager, Sligo, Leitrim, South Donegal, West Cavan

W114Q4263	That the Forum be provided with an update on the Chronic Pain Service in Sligo University Hospital including details of the number of people on the hospitals chronic pain relief waiting list.	Cllr D Bree
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Two Consultants providing the Chronic Pain service in SUH have both moved to new roles in other hospitals.

Recruitment to fill these 2 vacant Consultant Anaesthetic posts in the Pain service is actively ongoing, with permanent posts advertised and closing date of 13th February 2025. Shortlisting dates are being agreed currently via Public Applications Service with interview board nominees which are likely to take place by early March.

In the interim, while the process for permanent filling of posts is undertaken temporary posts advertisements have been active in all appropriate websites and agencies, One temporary post has been offered and we are waiting confirmation that this is accepted with start date likely March / April, if accepted. Medical Manpower are working on finalising an agreement plan for the commencement of a temporary consultant as early as possible.

A temporary Consultant commenced in July 2024, to oversee the governance of the Pain Management and Education Programme (PMEP) a psychologically-based rehabilitative treatment for people with persistent pain. This has allowed the PMEP programmes to continue as normal.

The Waiting List for Inpatient Day Cases and Outpatients for Chronic pain services is as follows:

	0-6 months	6 -9 months	9 – 12 months	12 – 15 months	15 – 18 months	18 – 24 months	24 – 36 months	Total
Inpatient & Daycase	6	33	45	47	12	9	1	153
Outpatients	0	4	36	48	18	30	10	146

Planned procedure list has 2024 patients waiting for repeat injections.

J Fitzmaurice, Integrated Health Area Manager, Sligo, Leitrim, South Donegal, West Cavan

W114Q4264	That the Forum be provided with details of all voluntary bodies, service providers, community organisations, social service groups etc in (a) Sligo (b) Leitrim, which receive funding from the HSE and the amount of funding provided to each group in the year 2023 and in the year 2024.	Cllr D Bree
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Please find report of agencies that are funded in Sligo/Leitrim. It is not possible to split by Sligo/Leitrim. The Service Provider Governance (SPG) database is setup per IHA. The Lottery Grant is also approached in the same way, Sligo/Leitrim jointly.

2023 Grant funding awarded to agencies in LHO Sligo/ Leitrim

This report includes all Grant funding recorded on Service Provider Governance (SPG), split between 'for Profit' and 'not for profit' agencies and all national Lotto funding awarded within Sligo/Leitrim LHO in 2023.

	Non Profits	Non Profits	Non Profits	Lotto	For Profits	Grand Total
Agency Name	S38 - SA	S39 - GA	S39 - SA	Lotto	For Profit - SA	
Access Nursing Limited					107,000	107,000
Active Age Carrick on Shannon				810		810
Aiseanna Tacaiochta Cuideachta Faoi Theorainn Rathaiochta			26,733			26,733
Alcohol Forum Ireland Company Limited By Guarantee			25,000			25,000
Aughavas Community Centre CLG				1,777		1,777
Ballintrillick Environmental Group CLG T/A The Benwiskin Centre						
Ballymote Family Resource Centre				3,829		3,829
Banada Tourlestrane Housing Association Company Limited By Guarantee		91,740				91,740
Banada Tourlestrane Housing Association Ltd				600		600
Barrackpark Home Care Limited					3,189,245	3,189,245
Baycare Health Services Ireland Limited					408,504	408,504
Brainwave-The Irish Epilepsy Association			15,498			15,498
Brampton Care Limited						
Breffni Community Development CLG				9,040		9,040

Breifni Community Development Company Limited by Guarantee		51,595				51,595
Brothers of Charity Services Ireland	225,477					225,477
Calry Active Retirement Association						
Care Alliance Ireland				1,240		1,240
Carlow Emergency Doctors-On-Call Company Limited By Guarantee			975,772			975,772
Carrigallen GAA Club						
Castleconor Defibrillator Comm						
Childhood Days for Children with Learning Disability Company Limited By Guarantee		21,980				21,980
Cliffoney Men's Shed				2,400		2,400
Community of Lough Arrow Social Project Company Limited By Guarantee		86,659				86,659
Community of Lough Arrow Social Project CLG (CLASP)				4,250		4,250
County Sligo General Practitioners Society		10,000				10,000
County Sligo Leader Partnership CLG						
County Sligo Leader Partnership Company Limited By Guarantee			364,765			364,765
Cranmore/Abbeyquarter Community Centre				3,707		3,707
Cuala Senior Care Limited						
Cúram Altranais (Paediatric & Adult Case Management Service) Limited					800,401	800,401
Diabetes Federation of Ireland			22,684			22,684
Diversity Sligo Asylum Seekers and Refugees Support Company Limited By Guarantee		4,476				4,476
Domestic Violence Advocacy Service (Sligo, Leitrim & West Cavan)						

Company Limited By Guarantee						
Down Syndrome Sligo						
Drumkeerin Care of the Elderly CLG			281,576			281,576
Drumsna Development Association CLG						
Drumsna Development Association Company Limited By Guarantee		66,770				66,770
Easkey Community Council CLG Meals on Wheels				4,378		4,378
Easkey Community Council Company Limited By Guarantee		52,629				52,629
Eastern Harps GAA Club				4,000		4,000
Enniscrone Men's Shed						
Eslin Community Association				581		581
Family Carers Ireland			1,981,570			1,981,570
Fenagh Development Company Ltd.				1,338		1,338
Finisklin Housing Association CLG			210,297			210,297
Flanagans Nursing Home Limited					892,478	892,478
Foroige The National Youth Development Organisation			13,000			13,000
G.A.L.R.O. Unlimited Company					279,600	279,600
Ganavan Limited					137,845	137,845
Glenfarne Community Development Trust Company Limited by Guarantee		16,838				16,838
Glenfarne Community Development Trust Ltd				2,600		2,600
Grow In Ireland			29,453			29,453
Homecare & Health Services (Ireland) Limited					469,269	469,269
I.W.A. Company Limited by Guarantee			893,739			893,739
Inspire Wellbeing Company Limited by Guarantee			2,710,107			2,710,107
Inspiring Ways Caring Companions Company Limited by Guarantee			244,500			244,500

Irish Advocacy Network Company Limited by Guarantee			18,789			18,789
Irish Community Rapid Response CLG t/a Critical						
Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind			15,520			15,520
Irish Heart Foundation (Foras Croi na H-Eireann)			-			-
Irish Hospice Foundation				5,000		5,000
Irish National Association For Cystic Fibrosis		9,514				9,514
Jama Home Care Limited					341,541	341,541
Kids Own Publishing Partnership						
Kinlough Men's Shed				2,882		2,882
KSMS Trading Limited					46,958	46,958
Lakeview Retirement Home Limited					54,184	54,184
Leitrim Association of People with Disabilities				1,078		1,078
Leitrim Association of People With Disabilities Company Limited by Guarantee			942,498			942,498
Leitrim Calling Committee		16,259				16,259
Leitrim County Council		34,290				34,290
Leitrim Integrated Development Company Company Limited by Guarantee			617,943			617,943
Lifestart Supporting Parents Leitrim Sligo and West Cavan Company Limited By Guarantee		12,354				12,354
Liquid Therapy Company Limited By Guarantee						
Mental Health Ireland			68,008			68,008
Mohill Park Sport and Leisure Facility				3,626		3,626
Multiple Sclerosis North West Therapy Centre Company Limited by Guarantee			271,817			271,817
National Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Ireland Company Limited by Guarantee			3,406			3,406

Nazareth House Management			2,027,500			2,027,500
Nazareth House Management CLG Sligo				3,500		3,500
NCBI Services			143,924			143,924
North Connaught Youth & Community Services Company Limited by Guarantee		13,805				13,805
North Leitrim Men's Group		67,672				67,672
North West Hospice Charity Company Limited By Guarantee			163,926			163,926
North West Parents and Friends Association				6,261		6,261
North West Parents and Friends Association for Persons with Intellectual Disability			3,149,015			3,149,015
North West Regional Drugs Task Force CLG		83,866				83,866
North West STOP Ltd.				4,769		4,769
Nua Healthcare Services Limited					202,704	202,704
Orchard Community Care Limited					4,256,936	4,256,936
Orchard Residential Care Limited					672,633	672,633
Order Of Malta Ambulance Corps						
Peter Bradley Foundation Company Limited by Guarantee			548,899			548,899
Positive Futures: Achieving Dreams. Transforming Lives Company Limited By Guarantee			798,576			798,576
Post Polio Support Group			5,709			5,709
PRAXIS CARE			1,183,957			1,183,957
Rainchild Leitrim Autism Support						
Rehab Group (Community Support - Care)			3,120,448			3,120,448
Rehab Group (Learning NLN)			127,057			127,057
Rehab Group Community Support Care				3,604		3,604
Rossinver Community Development Company		6,000				6,000

Company Limited by Guarantee						
Rossinver Youth Project Company Limited by Guarantee		140,599				140,599
Senior Citizens Helpline Company Limited by Guarantee						
Serenity Supported Homecare Limited						
Servisource Healthcare Limited						
Sligo Cancer Support Centre Company Limited By Guarantee		21,882				21,882
Sligo Centre for Independent Living Company Limited by Guarantee			621,058			621,058
Sligo Family Resource Centre CLG						
Sligo Family Resource Centre Company Limited by Guarantee			333,503			333,503
Sligo Lawn Bowls Club						
Sligo Leitrim Home Youth Liaison Service Company Limited By Guarantee		5,000				5,000
Sligo Northside Community Partnership Company Limited By Guarantee		81,139				81,139
Sligo Rowing Club				4,650		4,650
Sligo Samaritans		15,000				15,000
Sligo Social Service Council Company Limited by Guarantee			795,022			795,022
Sligo Sport and Recreation Partnership						
Sligo Sport and Recreation Partnership Company Limited By Guarantee		113,125				113,125
Sligo Springboard Company Limited By Guarantee		1,946				1,946
Sligo Town Women's Shed						
Sligo Traveller Support Group CLG		285,398				285,398
Sora Healthcare Limited					957,987	957,987

Special Olympics Ireland Limited		15,000				15,000
St. Christopher's Services Company Limited by Guarantee			4,699			4,699
Strandhill Community First Responders						
TEE Care Home Help Services Limited					2,352	2,352
The Alzheimer Society of Ireland			510,047			510,047
The Avalon Centre Company Limited by Guarantee			289,462			289,462
The Cheshire Foundation in Ireland			852,631			852,631
The Motor Neurone Disease Association		6,185				6,185
The National Association for the Deaf			85,143			85,143
The Neurology Support Centre				5,000		5,000
The Nightingale Agency International Limited						
The Nightingale Agency Limited					566,565	566,565
The North Leitrim Womens Resource Group (N.L.W.R.G.) Company Limited by Guarantee		6,100				6,100
The Rehab Group						
Trinity Support & Care Services Limited						
Tubbercurry Community First Responder Group				4,314		4,314
Tubbercurry Family and Child Care Resource House Project Company Limited by Guarantee		10,000				10,000
Tubbercurry Mens Shed				6,426		6,426
Vautour Limited					46,611	46,611
West Sligo Athletics Club				3,200		3,200
West Sligo Family Resource Centre Company Limited By Guarantee		8,500				8,500
Westcare Homecare Limited					390,245	390,245
Baylam Home Health Care Limited					62,610	62,610

Resilience Healthcare Limited					393,326	393,326
Grand Total	225,477	1,356,322	24,493,250	94,860	14,278,993	40,448,901

2024 Grant funding awarded to agencies in LHO Sligo/ Leitrim

This report includes all Grant funding recorded on SPG, split between for Profit and not for profit agencies and all national Lotto funding awarded within Sligo/Leitrim LHO in 2024.

N.B SPG figures are only as accurate as the information that is inputted into the system.

	Non Profits	Non Profits	Non Profits	Lotto	For Profit - SA	Grand Total
Agency Name	S38 - SA	S39 - GA	S39 - SA	Lotto	For Profit - SA	
Access Nursing Limited					111,000	111,000
Active Age Carrick on Shannon						
Aiseanna Tacaiochta Cuideachta Faoi Theorainn Rathaiochta			32,760			32,760
Alcohol Forum Ireland Company Limited By Guarantee			25,000			25,000
Aughavas Community Centre CLG						
Ballintrillick Environmental Group CLG T/A The Benwiskin Centre				592		592
Ballymote Family Resource Centre						
Banada Tourlestrane Housing Association Company Limited By Guarantee		99,178		259		99,437
Banada Tourlestrane Housing Association Ltd						
Barrackpark Home Care Limited						
Baycare Health Services Ireland Limited					513,672	513,672
Brainwave-The Irish Epilepsy Association			16,259			16,259
Brampton Care Limited					147,665	147,665

Breffni Community Development CLG						
Breffni Community Development Company Limited by Guarantee		64,173		6,865		71,038
Brothers of Charity Services Ireland	225,477					225,477
Calry Active Retirement Association				410		410
Care Alliance Ireland						
Carlow Emergency Doctors-On-Call Company Limited By Guarantee			902,828			902,828
Carrigallen GAA Club				5,000		5,000
Castleconor Defibrillator Comm				1,766		1,766
Childhood Days for Children with Learning Disability Company Limited By Guarantee		21,980				21,980
Cliffoney Men's Shed						
Community of Lough Arrow Social Project Company Limited By Guarantee		94,244				94,244
Community of Lough Arrow Social Project CLG (CLASP)						
County Sligo General Practitioners Society		10,000				10,000
County Sligo Leader Partnership CLG				3,859		3,859
County Sligo Leader Partnership Company Company Limited By Guarantee			385,551			385,551
Cranmore/Abbeyquarter Community Centre						
Cuala Senior Care Limited					3,337,228	3,337,228
Cúram Altranais (Paediatric & Adult Case Management Service) Limited					800,400	800,400
Diabetes Federation of Ireland			23,746			23,746
Diversity Sligo Asylum Seekers and Refugees Support Company Limited By Guarantee		8,368				8,368
Domestic Violence Advocacy Service (Sligo, Leitrim & West Cavan) Company Limited By Guarantee		10,000				10,000

Down Syndrome Sligo				4,438		4,438
Drumkeerin Care of the Elderly CLG			293,790			293,790
Drumsna Development Association CLG				1,640		1,640
Drumsna Development Association Company Limited By Guarantee		81,192				81,192
Easkey Community Council CLG Meals on Wheels						
Easkey Community Council Company Limited By Guarantee		59,779				59,779
Eastern Harps GAA Club						
Enniscrone Men's Shed				2,100		2,100
Eslin Community Association						
Family Carers Ireland			1,970,950	2,724		1,973,674
Fenagh Development Company Ltd.						
Finisklin Housing Association CLG			240,297			240,297
Flanagans Nursing Home Limited					92,141	92,141
Foroige The National Youth Development Organisation						
G.A.L.R.O. Unlimited Company					190,300	190,300
Ganavan Limited					142,000	142,000
Glenfarne Community Development Trust Company Limited by Guarantee		16,000				16,000
Glenfarne Community Development Trust Ltd				1,000		1,000
Grow In Ireland			30,796	5,000		35,796
Homecare & Health Services (Ireland) Limited					532,375	532,375
I.W.A. Company Limited by Guarantee			1,049,047			1,049,047
Inspire Wellbeing Company Limited by Guarantee			2,859,533			2,859,533
Inspiring Ways Caring Companions Company Limited by Guarantee			244,500			244,500

Irish Advocacy Network Company Limited by Guarantee			19,471			19,471
Irish Community Rapid Response CLG t/a Critical				7,500		7,500
Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind			16,291			16,291
Irish Heart Foundation (Foras Croi na H-Eireann)			37,000			37,000
Irish Hospice Foundation						
Irish National Association For Cystic Fibrosis		9,514				9,514
Jama Home Care Limited					395,686	395,686
Kids Own Publishing Partnership				9,480		9,480
Kinlough Men's Shed						
KSMS Trading Limited					16,764	16,764
Lakeview Retirement Home Limited					54,184	54,184
Leitrim Association of People with Disabilities						
Leitrim Association of People With Disabilities Company Limited by Guarantee			1,022,429	2,752		1,025,181
Leitrim Calling Committee		16,769				16,769
Leitrim County Council		34,290				34,290
Leitrim Integrated Development Company Company Limited by Guarantee			751,889			751,889
Lifestart Supporting Parents Leitrim Sligo and West Cavan Company Limited By Guarantee		12,354				12,354
Liquid Therapy Company Limited By Guarantee		7,100				7,100
Mental Health Ireland			70,935			70,935
Mohill Park Sport and Leisure Facility						
Multiple Sclerosis North West Therapy Centre Company Limited by Guarantee			289,369	5,700		295,069
National Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Ireland Company Limited by Guarantee			3,566	10,000		13,566

Nazareth House Management			2,090,491			2,090,491
Nazareth House Management CLG Sligo						
NCBI Services			149,798			149,798
North Connaught Youth & Community Services Company Limited by Guarantee		14,212				14,212
North Leitrim Men's Group		68,784				68,784
North West Hospice Charity Company Limited By Guarantee						
North West Parents and Friends Association						
North West Parents and Friends Association for Persons with Intellectual Disability			2,069,018			2,069,018
North West Regional Drugs Task Force CLG		482,501				482,501
North West STOP Ltd.						
Nua Healthcare Services Limited					532,672	532,672
Orchard Community Care Limited					5,602,733	5,602,733
Orchard Residential Care Limited					698,806	698,806
Order Of Malta Ambulance Corps				5,000		5,000
Peter Bradley Foundation Company Limited by Guarantee			450,255			450,255
Positive Futures: Achieving Dreams. Transforming Lives Company Limited By Guarantee			827,222			827,222
Post Polio Support Group			5,708			5,708
PRAXIS CARE			1,027,586			1,027,586
Rainchild Leitrim Autism Support				5,900		5,900
Rehab Group (Community Support - Care)						
Rehab Group (Learning NLN)						
Rehab Group Community Support Care						

Rossinver Community Development Company Company Limited by Guarantee		6,000				6,000
Rossinver Youth Project Company Limited by Guarantee		154,697				154,697
Senior Citizens Helpline Company Limited by Guarantee				1,000		1,000
Serenity Supported Homecare Limited					690,544	690,544
Servisource Healthcare Limited					19,000	19,000
Sligo Cancer Support Centre Company Limited By Guarantee		21,882		2,000		23,882
Sligo Centre for Independent Living Company Limited by Guarantee			745,868			745,868
Sligo Family Resource Centre CLG				3,600		3,600
Sligo Family Resource Centre Company Limited by Guarantee			352,703			352,703
Sligo Lawn Bowls Club				2,045		2,045
Sligo Leitrim Home Youth Liaison Service Company Limited By Guarantee		5,000				5,000
Sligo Northside Community Partnership Company Limited By Guarantee		83,552				83,552
Sligo Rowing Club						
Sligo Samaritans		15,000				15,000
Sligo Social Service Council Company Limited by Guarantee			1,186,069	9,348		1,195,417
Sligo Sport and Recreation Partnership				1,000		1,000
Sligo Sport and Recreation Partnership Company Limited By Guarantee		106,010				106,010
Sligo Springboard Company Limited By Guarantee		3,405				3,405
Sligo Town Women's Shed				2,550		2,550
Sligo Traveller Support Group CLG			305,991			305,991
Sora Healthcare Limited					124,645	124,645

Special Olympics Ireland Limited		15,000				15,000
St. Christopher's Services Company Limited by Guarantee			5,082			5,082
Strandhill Community First Responders				1,766		1,766
TEE Care Home Help Services Limited					1,939	1,939
The Alzheimer Society of Ireland			518,431	423		518,854
The Avalon Centre Company Limited by Guarantee			309,626	1,000		310,626
The Cheshire Foundation in Ireland			1,138,316			1,138,316
The Motor Neurone Disease Association		6,185				6,185
The National Association for the Deaf			88,964			88,964
The Neurology Support Centre						
The Nightingale Agency International Limited					160,000	160,000
The Nightingale Agency Limited					99,493	99,493
The North Leitrim Womens Resource Group (N.L.W.R.G.) Company Limited by Guarantee		9,600				9,600
The Rehab Group			3,568,915			3,568,915
Trinity Support & Care Services Limited					93,639	93,639
Tubbercurry Community First Responder Group						
Tubbercurry Family and Child Care Resource House Project Company Limited by Guarantee		10,000				10,000
Tubbercurry Mens Shed				5,550		5,550
Vautour Limited					25,000	25,000
West Sligo Athletics Club						
West Sligo Family Resource Centre Company Limited By Guarantee		8,500				8,500
Westcare Homecare Limited					145,500	145,500
Baylam Home Health Care Limited					100,000	100,000

Resilience Healthcare Limited					332,773	332,773
Grand Total	225,477	1,555,268	25,126,050	112,267	14,960,159	41,979,222

J Fitzmaurice, Integrated Health Area Manager, Sligo, Leitrim, South Donegal, West Cavan

W114Q4265	Is the HSE going to reinstate a proper home help/care service in County Leitrim to support our aged and disabled persons to remain in their own homes as long as is humanly possible.	Cllr P Farrell
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The HSE Home Support Service aims to support older people to remain in their own homes for as long as possible and to support informal carers. The HSE recognises the valuable contribution of carers who care for family members, relatives and friends.

In addition to the care being provided by family, carers, Day Care Centres and the Meals on Wheels Service, the Home Support Service assists clients by providing personal care services as per the Schedule of Care tasks, which are specific to each client's individual assessed clinical needs.

Home Support is provided to a total of 539 service users in County Leitrim. In addition to this, 97 people avail of the Meals on Wheels Services funded by the HSE, 116 people avail of Social Day Centres funded by the HSE, 62 people avail of sitting services and 20 people avail of overnight services.

J Fitzmaurice, Integrated Health Area Manager, Sligo, Leitrim, South Donegal, West Cavan

W114Q4266	Can I please enquiry as to how many children have been identified as requiring full time residential placements with diagnosis of Intellectual disability and or autism.	Cllr A Burke
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There are 12 children identified in Galway as requiring full time residential placements with diagnosis of Intellectual disability and or autism.

A Cosgrove, Integrated Health Area Manager, Galway Roscommon

W114Q4267	Can I please enquire how many children/adults have been assessed and deemed to require respite provision and are still without this service. Does the HSE have a plan with regards to the expansion of respite services in Galway.	Cllr A Burke
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505 children/Adults have been assessed and deemed to require respite provision in Galway.

There is a notable increase in demand for Enhanced Respite Services across Galway, Mayo and Roscommon for both Adults and Children.

€1,365,000 was allocated in 2024 for respite in Community Healthcare West.

Galway breakdown as follows:

Service Provider	on
BOCSI – South Connemara	€60,000
GAP Galway South Connemara	€24,000
BOCSI - Riverside	€60,000
BOCSI – East Sector Lakeview	€162,000
Enable – Connect	€42,000
Enable – Connect ASD	€60,000
Ability West St Teresa's	€60,000
Ability West Home Sharing	€60,000
Ability West Glenamaddy New Development	€180,000
Emergency Bed	€60,000
Total FYC	€768,000

A Cosgrove, Integrated Health Area Manager, Galway Roscommon

W114Q4268	Can I please enquire how many children with and Intellectual Disability/Autism are availing of community support/homecare packages in lieu of respite/residential provision.	Clr A Burke
29 children with and Intellectual Disability/Autism are availing of community support/homecare packages in lieu of respite/residential provision in Galway.		
A Cosgrove, Integrated Health Area Manager, Galway Roscommon		
W114Q4269	Can I enquire as to the HSE plan for the ongoing provision and supports for the aging demographic of individuals with Intellectual disabilities/autism currently availing of residential services.	Clr A Burke
<p>Disability Services meets regularly with our partner Agencies where requests for changing and aging medical needs of residential services are reviewed. In Disability Services, the demand for residential services far outweighs the funding received. Changing and aging medical needs are all considered on a case by case basis. We continue to advocate for additional funding streams to provide additional services to the people we support.</p> <p>There has been no additional funding in the last number of years for this aging demographic, however we continue to advocate for additional funding on case by case basis.</p>		
A Cosgrove, Integrated Health Area Manager, Galway Roscommon		
W114Q4270	What has brought about the change of policy in determining the nature of tasks undertaken by home care personnel when attending at the homes of service users?	Clr P Farrell
<p>There has been no change in policy to the nature of tasks undertaken by Health Care Assistants (HCAs) under the Home Support Service, Older Persons Services. The Home Support Protocols document was devised in November 2024 for local use and was circulated to staff to provide clarity on the roles that do and do not fall under the remit of the HCA (Home Support) as there had heretofore been some misunderstanding that domestic duties are performed by HCAs, and this is not the case. The approved tasks for HCAs (Home Support) include duties such as showering, washing, medication prompt, meal prompt, dressing, assistance from/to bed. The Home Support Service does not provide domestic duties such as cleaning, washing floors, dusting, vacuuming etc. Clinically qualified professionals, such as the public health nurse or GP, perform nursing and medical care duties such as wound dressing or medication administration.</p> <p>The HSE Home Support Service aims to support older people to remain in their own homes for as long as possible and to support informal carers in caring for older people. The HSE recognises the extremely valuable contribution of carers who care for family members, relatives and friends.</p> <p>In addition to the care being provided by family, carers, Day Care Centres and Meals on Wheels, the Home Support Service will assist clients in providing personal care services in line with the Schedule of Care tasks specific to each client's assessed clinical need. These tasks can include showering/washing, dressing, continence care, meal heat and serve / meal prompt, medication prompt and any other assessed clinical need identified by Public Health Nursing (PHN)) which is essential for the person's care and relative to the role of the HCA (Home Support).</p>		
J Fitzmaurice, Integrated Health Area Manager, Sligo, Leitrim, South Donegal, West Cavan		
W114Q4271	Can we have an updated report on the capital programme in Donegal on all existing projects and future developments being proposed on the ongoing programme by HSE estates in all areas	Clr C Brogan
An updated report on capital projects in Donegal was provided to the Regional Health Forum meeting of 26 th November 2024. The HSE's Capital Plan for 2025 has yet to be approved for publication. In advance of same we include details of projects complete in 2024 and under construction in 2025.		

Facility	Project	Current Status
Letterkenny University Hospital	Fire Safety Upgrade - Fire Alarm upgrade & new Emergency lighting system.	Complete
Letterkenny University Hospital	Extension to Laboratory (Microbiology, Virology and Immunology) to provide capacity for Additional COVID 19 Testing (additional equipment and staff already in place) and to bring the Lab up to current standards.	Completed in 2024
St Conal's Hospital	St. Conal's Refurbishment - fabric upgrade of Block R	Completed in 2024
Letterkenny University Hospital	Weather proofing: Flat roof covering repair and balcony spalling repair works, phased project.	Ongoing project with multiple phases. Phase one is currently under construction and phase 2 to commence in 2025
Letterkenny CNU	110 Bed CNU & Medical Rehab to replace existing beds and address capacity deficit as per Service Priority List (formerly PPP). Board Decision no: 300623/42	Under Construction - Due for completion 2026
Falcarragh CNU	Refurbishment (HIQA agreement to follow Dungloe) - 35 beds	Under Construction - phase 2 completed 2024. Phase 3 to be completed in 2025.

M Conneely, Assistant National Director, Capital & Estates

W114Q4272	Can we have an updated report the current vacancy in our breast care services in LUH and when this will be filled?	Cllr C Brogan
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A Consultant General Surgeon with a Special Interest in Breast Surgery resigned from his post on 25 March 2025.

In order to replace the Consultant permanently, we are required to return to the Consultant Application Advisory Committee (CAAC) for formal approval to replace the position with a General Surgeon with Special Interest in Breast Surgery. Once approval is received from both the National Cancer Care Programme and the Clinical Care Programme for General Surgery, the post can be approved by CAAC and advertised for permanent filling by the Public Appointment Service.

However, whilst we navigate this process, LUH has successfully recruited a Consultant Breast Surgeon who will commence the post at LUH at the end of March on a fixed term contract. This is in addition to another, Consultant Breast & General Surgeon.

D Monaghan, Integrated Health Area Manager, Donegal

W114Q4273	Can we have an updated report the possibility of temporary accommodation for the Donegal Hospice while the new proposed works takes place on the additional accommodation during the construction period?	Cllr C Brogan
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The HSE can confirm that HSE owned accommodation has been secured for the temporary relocation of the Donegal Hospice during the planned renovation of the Donegal Hospice facility.

D Monaghan, Integrated Health Area Manager, Donegal