

Minutes of Regional Health Forum West meeting held on Tuesday, 28th September 2021 at 2.00pm by Zoom.

Miontuairiscí chruinniú an Fhórait Sláinte Réigiúnaigh a tionóladh Dé Máirt, 28 Meán Fómhair, 2021 ag 2.00 in
trí súmáil isteach

Chairperson: Cllr John Carroll - **Cllr Gerry McMonagle took the chair at 5.10pm**

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

In attendance:

Tony Canavan, Executive Lead, Regional Health Forum/CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group
Ann Cosgrove, Chief Operating Officer, Saolta University Health Care Group
Breda Crehan-Roche, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare West
Maria Bridgeman, Chief Officer, Midwest Community Healthcare
John Hayes, Chief Officer, CHO, Area 1
Charlie Meehan, Head of Service, Mental Health, CHO, Area 2
Shannon Glynn, Head of Service, Social Care, CHO, Area 2
Norah Owens, Regional Health Forum Office
Marian Cavanagh, Regional Health Forum Office
Anna Lyons, Regional Health Forum Office

771/95/21 Minutes of previous meeting – 23rd March, 2021

The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 23rd March 2021 were proposed by Cllr Daithí Ó Cualáin and seconded by Cllr Michael Kilcoyne and adopted.

772/95/21 Matters Arising:

773/95/21 Chairman's Business:

774/95/21 Update on COVID-19

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

776/95/21 Questions:

W95Q3041: Ambulance dispatch operation:

T Canavan committed to having a presentation on Ambulance services as a single item agenda at a future RHF Committee meeting.

Action: RHF Office to organize

W95Q3042: New 42 Bed Medical Block at Sligo University Hospital:

Cllr D Gilroy requested all Sligo/Leitrim members be kept up to date on the progress of this project.

Action: A Cosgrove to keep members updated.

W95Q3043: Vacant Nursing Posts in Sligo University Hospital:

Cllr D Gilroy requested all Sligo/Leitrim members be kept up to date on the progress of the filling of these posts.

Action: A Cosgrove to keep members updated.

W95Q3044: Sexual Health Clinic at SUH

Action: J Hayes agreed to supply Cllr D Gilroy with updated wait list figures, establish the adequacy of current frequency of clinics, and look at publicity for the clinics.

W95Q3045: No. of WTE Permanent Nursing posts vacant

Action: A Cosgrove to issue Cllr J Connolly with exact figures of nursing vacancies in GUH.

W95Q3046: Numbers referred to CAMHS with eating disorders

Action: Breda Crehan-Roche to supply Cllr J Connolly with the 2018/2019 data on admission of eating disorder patients to CAMHS.

W95Q3050: Opening of Day Care Centre's in Mayo

Action: Breda Crehan Roche to revert to Cllr M Kilcoyne with the reopening date for day care services at the Sacred Heart Hospital in Castlebar.

W95Q3051: Covered passageway between Covid Assessment Unit and the main hospital in MUH

Action: A Cosgrove agreed to bring this to Estates and to revert with an update at the November meeting.

W95Q3052: Staff Vacancies at MUH

Action: A Cosgrove to revert to Cllr Kilcoyne with the percentage of graduates who took up post at MUH.

W95Q3063: Medical Card Queries on Prescribing Anti-depressants

It was proposed by T Canavan that PCRS do a presentation at an upcoming Committee meeting.

Action: RHF office to organise this.

W95Q3084: BreastCheck Screening Services:

Action: Cllr E Francis Parsons to send in supplementary questions for response by the Screening services.

W95Q3087: Disability respite beds in East Galway

Action: Breda Crehan-Roche agreed to update Cllr Parsons re once off 2021 funding and the new respite service in the Galway East sector.

777/95/21 AOB:

778/95/21 Date & Time of Next Meeting:

Future Meetings:

The next **Regional Health Forum Committee** Meeting will take place on Tuesday 19th October, 2021 at 2pm via Zoom (virtual meeting was agreed).

The next **Regional Health Forum West** meeting will take place on Tuesday 23rd November, 2021 at 1pm (physical meeting was agreed).

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 – 23RD NOVEMBER 2021

Number:	QUESTION	RAISED BY	PAGE No.
W96Q3092	Relocation of the Church and the service it provides at UHG	Cllr M OConnor	4
W96Q3093	HSE transport for special needs clients.	Cllr F Armstrong McGuire	4-5
W96Q3094	Does the HSE find difficulty in attracting staff to UHLK?	Cllr G Crawford	5
W96Q3095	What plans are in place or courses ongoing to increase much needed Staff numbers in the National Ambulance Service.	Cllr G Crawford	5
W96Q3096	How many clinics or procedures have been postponed or cancelled in UHLK 2020 and 2021 to date.	Cllr G Crawford	5-6
W96Q3097	Were finances approved and plans drawn up for a lab extension that would facilitate the North West and when will it commence?	Cllr G Crawford	6
W96Q3098	Update on the timeframe for the refurbishment of the Sacred Heart Hospital in Roscommon.	Cllr T Ward	6
W96Q3099	Home Care Packages and Home Help Hours provided to older people in Co. Roscommon during the years 2019, 2020 and 2021?	Cllr T Ward	7
W96Q3100	The number of MRI and CT scanners in hospitals in the Regional Health Forum West Area?	Cllr T Ward	7-8
W96Q3101	How many children currently on the waiting list for an appointment to see an OT in the South Roscommon & Co Roscommon?	Cllr T Ward	8-9
W96Q3102	Is there any reduction of bed places at Aras Mhuire, Tuam or any other HSE WEST CNU in Co Galway/Mayo/Roscommon?	Cllr D Killilea	9-10
W96Q3103	The number of staff on Covid related sick leave in the Galway/Mayo/Roscommon area's over the last 60 days	Cllr D Killilea	10-11
W96Q3104	Can the HSE confirm when community booster vaccinations will resume?	Cllr D Killilea	11
W96Q3105	Since the re-opening of Pubs and night clubs could the HSE confirm the number of people presenting to A&E that is alcohol or drug related.	Cllr D Killilea	11-12
W96Q3106	Update report on the new proposed CNU for Letterkenny?	Cllr C Brogan	12
W96Q3107	Update report on the challenges in LUH, waiting lists, vacant positions, and additional investment proposals.	Cllr C Brogan	12-13
W96Q3108	Update report on future investment of community hospitals in Donegal?	Cllr C Brogan	13-14
W96Q3109	Report on the new investment programme in ambulance service facilities in Donegal?	Cllr C Brogan	14
W96Q3110	Explanation for the delays in recruiting the 4 diabetes CNS post, the 3 dietitian posts, and the additional 2 consultant endocrinologist posts for UL Hospital Group.	Cllr C Murphy	14-15
W96Q3111	How many hospital admissions through UL Hospitals Groups A&E or AMAU departments under 18 and over 18 in tabular form.	Cllr C Murphy	15
W96Q3112	The National Incident Management System (NIMS) is a system to improve patient and service user safety, how many NIRF 4 reports have been made by the members of the NAS in 2019, 2020 and 2021 for County Clare.	Cllr C Murphy	15-16
W96Q3113	Update on Home help workers and personal care providers in the community for South Leitrim.	Cllr F Armstrong McGuire	16

W96Q3114	Current waiting list for CAHMS services for teenagers and adolescents in South West Donegal?	ClIr T Conaghan	16-17
W96Q3115	What plans are in place to reduce these waiting lists in the CAMHS Service in the near future?	ClIr T Conaghan	17
W96Q3116	Why are there so many people on trolleys at Mayo University Hospital and how many routine procedures have been cancelled since 1 st January 2021?	ClIr M Kilcoyne	17-18
W96Q3117	How many inquests were held in the past two years, regarding people who died at Mayo University Hospital, where the verdict of the inquests were Medical Misadventure?	ClIr M Kilcoyne	18
W96Q3118	Primary Care Centres are now fully operational in Mayo?	ClIr M Kilcoyne	18-19
W96Q3119	Are there proposals to reduce the number of people employed on hygiene duties at the Sacred Heart Hospital, Castlebar on the night shift?	ClIr M Kilcoyne/ ClIr B Gavin	19
W96Q3120	Blue Stack Foundation (Special Needs) and ICARE. Will the HSE ensure that adequate core funding costs is provided by the HSE to enable these essential services continue?	ClIr A Doherty	19
W96Q3121	Restoration of Day Care Services at Carndonagh Community Hospital by the HSE?	ClIr A Doherty	19-20
W96Q3122	Has the lease and management of Milltown House been agreed with the friends of JCM by the HSE?	ClIr A Doherty	20
W96Q3123	When will services resume for clients in the Mohill area who wish to attend Arus Carolan?	ClIr F Armstrong McGuire	20-21
W96Q3124	Clinical files storage - the names and details of who is providing the service and what payments have been made in 2020 and so far in 2021.	ClIr D Gilroy	21
W96Q3125	A&E at Sligo University Hospital for the year 2021?	ClIr D Gilroy	21-22
W96Q3126	Longest and shortest waiting time from arrival to departure of Ambulances at Sligo University Hospital A&E and to include details of the average, longest and shortest time from arrival at the A&E until the patient is seen by clinical staff in the A&E Department.	ClIr D Gilroy	22
W96Q3127	Update on what diabetes services have been moved to the new Diabetes Centre at Sligo University Hospital.	ClIr D Gilroy	22-23
W96Q3128	Full complement (WTE) of nurses required to staff the Accident & Emergency Department in Sligo University Hospital.	ClIr D Bree	23
W96Q3129	How many staff (WTE) are currently employed at Sligo University Hospital and how many staff were employed at the same time in 2020?	ClIr D Bree	23-24
W96Q3130	Does the HSE have a system in place whereby HSE employees have deductions made from their salaries for the payment of private health insurance?	ClIr D Bree	24
W96Q3131	How many adults (over 18) in each county in the Health Forum area possessed a full medical card in December 2019 and in December 2020	ClIr D Bree	25
W96Q3132	Update on CAMHS Connect and review of its operation and staffing since initial set up in HSE West.	ClIr E Francis Parsons	25-26
W96Q3133	Update on installation of CT replacement scanner in PUB.	ClIr E Francis Parsons	27
W96Q3134	Update on roll out programme COVID boosters to Healthcare Workers.	ClIr E Francis Parsons	27
W96Q3136	What Mental Health HSE supports are currently in place to assist individuals and families affected by Covid -19.	ClIr A Doherty	27-28

W96Q3137	How many people are currently awaiting MRI's and CT's as outpatient's and inpatients in GUH?	Cllr D Ó Cualáin	29
W96Q3138	What guidance or advice has been given to the routine G.P service and out of hours G.P service in relation to seeing patients in their clinics without having a covid-19 screen?	Cllr D Ó Cualáin	29
W96Q3139	Supply in tabular form on the number of Lead's, Advanced Paramedics, Paramedics and EMT's that were and are stationed permanently by station in Galway City, Carraroe, Clifden, Loughrea, Tuam and Ballinasloe in October 2020 and in October 2021?	Cllr D Ó Cualáin	30-31
W96Q3140	Progress on a Primary Care Centre for Spiddal? Where does this project currently stand?	Cllr D Ó Cualáin	31
W96Q3141	Can the fair deal scheme be rolled out to families to avail of for families trying to keep their loved ones at home and not to place them in nursing homes	Cllr F Gurn	31
W96Q3142	An update on staff shortages for home help.	Cllr F Gurn	31-32
W96Q3143	How many Nurses/Doctors resigned/retired from Letterkenny University Hospital since Dec 2020?	Cllr G McMonagle	32
W96Q3144	How many Ambulance Crews do we have on duty covering Co Donegal on a 24 hour basis?	Cllr G McMonagle	32-33
W96Q3145	Breakdown of the Staff at the Oncology Unit at LUH, the number of vacant Posts and the waiting times.	Cllr G McMonagle	33
W96Q3146	Bed and Staff shortages at LUH.	Cllr G McMonagle	33-34
W96Q3147	Update on the proposed Primary Health Care Centre in Oranmore.	Cllr L Carroll	34
W96Q3148	The Numbers of children awaiting assessment for Speech & Language Therapy and for Dental and Orthodontic treatment in the Oranmore, Maree, Clarinbridge and Carnmore.	Cllr L Carroll	34-35

Number:	QUESTION	RAISED BY
W96Q3092	There has been concern raised to me that space currently allocated to the Church at UHG has recently been reduced and that there may be plans to reduce it further. Regardless of ones faith denomination, this is the only quiet space on the whole hospital campus. Its uses are many and varied; a quiet place for patients to think or decompress in an exceptionally stressful environment. A site to bring an elderly confused person where they can recognise the familiar environment of their faith where they can begin to re orientate. A shared place to reflect and meet when staff members die. A space to sit quietly in prayer (or not) for distressed and worried family members. Question; What is the status of the Church and the service it provides, are there plans to change or reduce this space or service? If any changes are proposed what consultation and needs assessment has been carried out to ascertain staff, family and patients needs for this vital space and service which supports mental health at a rights based level?	Cllr M O'Connor
The chapel / oratory at UHG relocated for 3 weeks to allow essential works for the Cardiothoracic Ward Project on the first floor. A smaller chapel / oratory area was made available during this time. This occurred from 18th October to 7th November 2021. The present chapel / oratory is reduced in size to accommodate a temporary waiting area for the Acute Medical Unit, which is currently experiencing Health & Safety issues with chairs on corridors. It is planned that the chapel / oratory will be returned to its original size in Q2 2022, when an alternative waiting area is completed for the Acute Medical Unit. There was consultation with staff, family and patient groups during this process. <i>T. Canavan, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group</i>		
W96Q3093	In situations where the HSE provide transport for clients with special needs to their services I note that the transport company often has to travel quite a distance to the home of the client and then on to the service provider. In many cases local providers have been bypassed. Is this outcome based on price quoted by providers being lowest? Is it time to consider carbon footprint and negotiate for better deals and least fuel burn?	Cllr F Armstrong McGuire
There are a number of considerations as regards your query. The mapping of clients that took place for ID services was the initial piece of work before route design. In general, to make the best use of transport, routes are created in a loop manner therefore you avoid a bus travelling back along its same route (wasted mileage). Secondly, we looked to have a maximum on board time for any client of 1.5 hours and even this is not always possible. The tender process is not entirely on price, vehicle quality is also a factor, but generally it is aimed at achieving the best value for money. From our experience, operators examine tender documentation and quote for work that is closest to their location, which minimises their dead mileage and keeps their cost down. To achieve shorter journey times for clients requires the introduction of more routes/vehicles which negatively impacts on the carbon footprint and the overall cost of transport to the HSE. As electric vehicles become more		

available, the tender processes could look to reward the use of such vehicles, however the duration that these can operate for between charge, makes them non feasible for use in this type of environment at present. As this improves and the actual vehicle cost reduces, we may get to a point in the future where an electric vehicle tender proposal matches or betters its diesel alternative.

John Hayes, Chief Officer, CHO1

W96Q3094	In view of the present difficulty obtaining accommodation generally and with the problem worsened by Mica. Does the HSE see this as an added difficulty attracting staff to UHLK if so what action if any is proposed by HSE to help resolve same.	Cllr G Crawford
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LUH is aware that some staff face difficulties in obtaining accommodation when they first arrive in the area. There has been a decrease in the availability of private rental accommodation for a number of reasons, however, this has not proven a significant challenge for the hospital in terms of attracting staff.

We recognise that accommodation issues can be a challenge for people coming into the area, however, the quality of life in Letterkenny and Donegal is seen as a benefit in attracting staff to work in Letterkenny University Hospital.

T. Canavan, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group

W96Q3095	What plans are in place or courses ongoing to increase much needed Staff numbers in the National Ambulance Service.	Cllr G Crawford
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There is no ready supply of Paramedics in Ireland and NAS for the most part must educate their own workforce in their own college. The Paramedic programme is degree level and takes three years. There are currently over 200 Student Paramedics are different stages of the programme right now.

The National Ambulance Service is currently running an extensive recruitment campaign. Three courses are due to become operational in December 2021. This will see 84 paramedic intern enter the system. Additionally, another three courses started in September which will see circa 64 paramedic interns enter the system in September 2022. The current recruitment campaign is hoped will see an additional 3 courses commence in Jan 2021.

NAS has the capacity to commence and progress the education of approx. 200 student Paramedics and this will continue in 2022. However, NAS does need to continue to build its educational capacity but also diversify the options for Paramedics to be educated, including apprenticeships. NAS are exploring this option now and will progress this with SOLAS in 2022.

As of 1 October 2021, NAS have commenced redeployment of up to 45 Paramedics from COVID related work to emergency ambulance duty. NAS are also working with trade union partners to develop temporary alterations to the current deployment model to minimise the impact of the capacity challenges on staff.

In 2021, NAS has commissioned a further capacity analysis which is now underway to inform future workforce planning. It is very likely that this analysis when complete will in light of rapidly rising demand, recommend a significant growth in workforce between now and 2027. It is important to recognise that NAS must also have effective leadership, governance and educational structures in place to lead and support the ongoing growth in capacity and in this regard, NAS will progress these arrangements in 2022 through the NSP 2022

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

W96Q3096	How many clinics or procedures have been postponed or cancelled in UHLK 2020 and 2021 to date.	Cllr G Crawford
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Inpatient and Day Case Cancellations 2020

Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOT AL
47	46	59	0	2	18	23	40	37	28	24	18	342

Inpatient and Day Case Cancellations 2021

Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
12	5	8	61	55	23	31	31	21	35	5		287

Outpatient Clinics cancelled

LUH Out Patient number of clinics cancelled by month

2020

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Sum:
2020 Clinic Cancellations LUH	13	20	33	15	8	6	17	10	10	7	33	33	205

2021

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Sum:
2021 Clinic cancellations LUH		111	62	18	29	33	23	23	16	13	28	13	369

A. Cosgrove, COO, Saolta University Health Care Group

W96Q3097	Ref Micro-Biology & Serology lab UHLK. Can it be confirmed that finances were approved and plans drawn up for a lab extension that would facilitate the North West. Taking on board the large amount of tests that are being analysed at this the present facility and the need for this to continue in light of the COVID Pandemic. When will this lab extension commence.	Cllr G Crawford
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A proposal has been developed for an extension to the Laboratory (Microbiology, Virology and Immunology) at LUH to provide increased overall lab capacity to both support Covid-19 Testing and to bring the Laboratory up to current standards. This project is intended for progression in 2022 as part of the overall HSE Capital programme. A design has been developed for the planned extension and the next steps in the process will be to progress the statutory approvals for the development namely to progress the planning permission application, fire safety certificate application and disability access cert (DAC) application in 2022. Once these approvals are in place the project would then proceed to invitation to tender stage. Construction works would follow once a successful contractor was identified and a works contract awarded. This could potentially happen in late 2022. Additional equipment and staff are already in place.

Joe Hoare, Assistant National Director, Capital & Estates West

W96Q3098	Can the HSE Executive provide an update on the timeframe for the refurbishment of the Sacred Heart Hospital in Roscommon, now that the HSE has appointed a Design Team to look after the building of the new 50 bedded Residential Care Centre on the site of the Sacred Heart Hospital in Roscommon? Can the HSE inform the meeting when work will commence on the site?	Cllr T Ward
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To date preliminary and scheme design phases have been developed for this project. It is intended that a formal planning permission application will be submitted to Roscommon County Council in Q1 of 2022. Applications will subsequently then be submitted for both a fire safety certificate and a disability access certificate for the proposed development.

Once the necessary statutory approvals are in place, the project would then advance during 2022 to detailed design and the production of tender documentation. A two stage public procurement process will be initiated in Q3 inviting submissions from interested works contractors with a view to establishing a short list of firms for invitation to tender. It is hoped to be in a position to seek tenders for the works by late Q3 2022 with tender to be returned during Q4 2022. Award of contract would then follow in late Q1 2023 subject to the necessary approvals and funding being in place. It is estimated that the works could then take up to a further 15 to 18 months to complete.

Joe Hoare, Assistant National Director, Capital & Estates West

W96Q3099	Can the HSE Executive inform the Members of the Forum of the number of Home Care Packages and Home Help Hours provided to older people in Co. Roscommon during the years 2019, 2020 and 2021?	Cllr T Ward
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Home Support Hours delivered in Co Roscommon are as follows:

2019	Hours Delivered	329,533
2020	Hours Delivered	360,166
2021 to Sept	Hours Delivered	318,350

- These hours reflect both Home Help and Home Care Package hours.
- The numbers demonstrate that and there is a year on year increase in Roscommon and the Home Support Service are projected to deliver more hours in Roscommon than previous years. However, both the HSE and private Service Providers are having difficulty in recruiting Health Care Support Assistant's (HCSA) across CHW.
- The Home Support Department is continually engaging with private Service Providers who run rolling recruitment campaigns.
- In addition, the HSE engage with current staff within the HSE to offer them additional hours
- The HSE have a recruitment campaign currently underway for HCSA's (formerly known as Home Help) with a closing date of November 30th.

Breda Crehan-Roche, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare West

W96Q3100	Can the HSE Executive inform the Members of the Forum of the number of MRI and CT scanners in hospitals in the Regional Health Forum West Area? I am calling on the HSE Executive to provide and install MRI and CT Scanners at University Hospital Roscommon.	Cllr T Ward
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PUH Response:

Portiuncula University Hospital has 1 CT Scanner which is due for replacement in 2022. The hospital has an MRI which is not owned by the hospital and is a managed service. This service provides 1,800 scans annually. It also includes a profit share which allows PUH to purchase more scans as required year to year.

RCH Response:

There is currently one CT scanner in RUH.

The hospital has a Service Level Agreement with a private provider, MRI Alliance, who are based in Ballinasloe for the provision of MRIs. MRI Alliance provide an average of 35 MRI scans each month to patients referred to the Hospital or by the Hospital.

There are currently no plans to provide an additional CT scanner or an MRI service at Roscommon University Hospital.

GUH Response:

2 CT scanners in UHG.

1 MRI currently being replaced and there is a Managed Service MRI on UHG site.

We have a Service Level Agreement (SLA) in Merlin Park Imaging Centre for CT and MRI.

There are plans for a Cardiology Research CT Scanner with NUIG on site in UHG Clinical Research Facility (CRF) to which the Hospital will also have access and Capital works are in progress.

SUH Response:

There is one CT Scanner and MRI unit in Sligo University Hospital. A Capital Business case has been submitted to try to secure funding for 2nd CT Scanner for Sligo University Hospital to deal with increasing levels of activity in the hospital.

MUH Response:

Mayo University Hospital has 1 MRI and 1 CT scanner.

LUH Response:

Letterkenny University Hospital has one MRI and one CT scanner in use. A second CT scanner was purchased by The Friends of Letterkenny Hospital.

A. Cosgrove, COO, Saolta University Health Care Group

Please see below for a breakdown of the number of MRI and CT scanners currently in place across UL Hospitals Group.

Site	CT	MRI	Comments
Limerick	3	2 (1 MRI machine is on long term lease)	Note: The UHL MRI is currently being replaced and is expected to be operational by the end of November 2021
Ennis	1	0	
Nenagh	1	0	Note: CT currently closed for refurbishment and installation of new scanner and is expected to be operational by early December 2021

University Hospital Limerick is currently installing a replacement MRI as part of a planned programme.

The old scanner at UHL was installed in 2003 and upgraded in 2009. We were pleased to receive €1.5m under the HSE's National Equipment Replacement Programme and we are currently installing a new Siemens Magnetom Sola MRI scanner in the Department of Radiology.

The scanner includes state-of-the-art software which allows for more diverse scans. It will enable staff to complete scans more quickly, allowing for a higher throughput of patients. These advantages in terms of technology, speed and reliability should allow the Department to improve current capacity--This will improve wait times for patients and assist in patient flow. We are pleased to provide an enhanced service for the region.

C. Cowan, CEO, UL Hospitals Group

W96Q3101	Can the HSE Executive inform the Members of the Forum as to the number of children currently on the waiting list for an appointment to see an occupational therapist in the South Roscommon area and also the rest of Co	Cllr T Ward
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	Roscommon?	
- The number on the paediatric waiting list for Monksland (South Roscommon Area) is 36 - The number on the paediatric waiting list for the remainder of the county is 113. - These numbers relate to primary care only As reconfiguration is still ongoing across Children's Disability Services, Community Healthcare West at this time, it is not possible to give a definite time frame for when children will receive individual focused intervention from an Occupational Therapist. It is anticipated that families will be contacted by January 2022 for a screening call by the local Children's Disability Network Team. Once all the screening calls have been completed, the team will be in a better position to provide families with a service plan and timeframes for focused intervention including Occupational Therapy intervention. Community Healthcare West continues to carry out assessments and intervention with children. Every effort is being made to minimise the disruption to children and families and to offset this disruption, Community Healthcare West are recruiting staff across all disciplines for a waiting list initiative to address waiting times in Children's Disability Network Teams. Breda Crehan-Roche, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare West		
W96Q3102	Could I ask the HSE West is there any reduction of bed places at Aras Mhuire, Tuam or any other HSE WEST CNU in Co Galway/Mayo/Roscommon in response to guidelines or stipulations coming from HIQA?	Cllr D Killilea
Please see response for each relevant CNU in Community Healthcare West.		
Aras Ronan	Two triple bedrooms reduced to double bedrooms, resulting in the loss of two long stay beds as enhanced IPC guideline and to better meet HIQA Regulations	
Ballinasloe CNU	Required to reduce beds following March 2021 site visit on a temporary basis due to inadequate levels of nurse staffing	
St Anne's	Required to reduce one bed from a 4 bedded room due to meet HIQA Regulations	
St Brendan's	No loss in bed places however beds closed due to inadequate staffing to meet staffing requirements under HIQA regulations for full registered HIQA capacity	
Dalton CNU	No loss in bed places however beds closed due to inadequate staffing to meet staffing requirements under HIQA regulations for full registered HIQA capacity	
Aras Mhic Dara	No reduction in beds. Unit increased bed capacity in HIQA re registration (registered closed beds)	
Sacred Heart Roscommon	Temporary bed Reduction in 'bed places' due to essential fire remedial work for HIQA registration compliance Expected reduction of 10 beds due to inability to meet S.I. 293/2016 (Note: S.I.293/2016 is a new regulations that requires bedrooms to have an area of not less than 7.4 m2 of floor space and no bedroom shall have more than 4 residents other than a high-dependency room which shall not have more than 6 residents)	
Merlin Park CNU	No bed reduction	
St Augustine's	No loss in bed places however beds closed due to inadequate staffing to meet staffing	

	requirements under HIQA regulations for full registered HIQA capacity
St Fionnan's	No loss in bed places however beds closed due to inadequate staffing to meet staffing requirements under HIQA regulations for full registered HIQA capacity
Arua Deirbhile Belmullet	Arus Deirbhile Long stay No loss in bed places however beds closed due to inadequate staffing to meet staffing requirements under HIQA regulations for full registered HIQA capacity District Hospital Short Stay – 8 beds cannot be operated due to inability to implement required IPC requirements
Mac Bride	No loss in bed places however beds closed due to inadequate staffing to meet staffing requirements under HIQA regulations for full registered HIQA capacity
SHH Castlebar	No bed reduction
Swinford	No loss in bed places however beds closed due to inadequate staffing to meet safe staffing requirements
Ballina DH	10 beds cannot be operated due to inability to implement required IPC requirements
Tuam	Between 1 and 5 beds to be de-registered by HIQA based on inability to meet SI 293/2016 however no formal decision to date. CHO2 has made representations to HIQAs proposed decision and awaits a response

Breda Crehan-Roche, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare West

W96Q3103	Can the HSE confirm the number of staff on Covid related sick leave in the Galway/Mayo/Roscommon area's over the last 60 days by Hospital, Primary Care Centre, Community Nursing Units? And what are the affects on service due to this?	Clr D Killilea
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Impact on Primary Care Services – Mary Warde, Head of Primary Care Services, Community Healthcare West:

I wish to advise that a **total of 61 Covid related absences** was recorded over the last 60 days across **Primary Care Services**, Community Healthcare West (Galway/Mayo & Roscommon). In this regard, some areas are escalated to providing a Priority 1 service only.

Impact on Residential Services within OPS:

If staff cannot be replaced it means that Community Nursing Units cannot operate their full complement of registered beds. where staff are unexpectedly absent it creates gaps on rosters which are difficult to fill due to the shortage of Health Care Workers and puts pressure on existing staff, potentially impacts on ability to provide highest levels of service and occasionally lead to regulatory compliance issues.

In an effort to address staffing issues, we are actively engaged in recruiting staff nurses, clinical nurse managers, multi task attendants and Homecare Support workers through bespoke campaigns run here locally international recruitment.

60 Day – Covid 19 Related Sick Leave:

Mayo	53
Roscommon	31
Galway	19

Breda Crehan-Roche, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare West

Covid-19 continues to have a significant impact on Staff absences through either testing positive/showing symptoms or through the large number of staff considered vulnerable, cocooning and pregnant.

As a result of these staff shortages across all sites, it can be challenging to fill staff rosters and cover on-call at short notice. Gaps in rosters are covered by use of agency, through redeployment and through staff postponing leave to cover at short notice in order to ensure consistent and safe delivery of care to patients. Their continued hard work and dedication is commended.

The following table shows the total number of staff who have availed of Covid related sick leave in GUH, MUH and RUH, for varying periods of time over the past 60 days.

Category of Staff	Number of Staff Absent Due to Covid
Management Admin	4
Nursing/Midwifery	7
Medical/Dental	3
General Support	2
Health & Social Care Professions	5
Patient & Client Care	1
TOTAL	22

T. Canavan, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group

W96Q3104	In relation to vaccines, can the HSE confirm when community booster vaccinations will resume? What is the percentage of Staff working in the HSE West area that are not vaccinated?	Cllr D Killilea
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Booster vaccinations are currently being administered in the community to healthcare workers (HCWs) and people aged 60+. The Minister of Health has announced the extension of the booster programme to people aged 50-59, all remaining residents of residential care facilities and all those aged 16+ with a relevant underlying health condition.

There has been a significant demand to receive the COVID-19 vaccine to date and all indications are that there is a very high take up of vaccination by healthcare staff, which is welcome. There is policy in place to address situations where staff in critical roles are unvaccinated, which is managed at a local healthcare site level, and we know this is a relatively small number in the context of the total healthcare workforce. Please see link for current Risk Assessment guidance: <https://www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/hcpinfo/covid19vaccineinfo4hps/risk-assessment-for-covid-19-vaccination-for-hcp.pdf>

Participation in vaccination programmes in Ireland is not mandatory. Should a person change their mind, vaccination can be made available to them.

We continue to vaccinate new healthcare staff and have processes in place to ensure new healthcare workers are vaccinated.

A healthcare worker's vaccination status is matter between the line manager and the individual staff member when the risk assessment is being conducted. A total of 3% of staff members in the Saolta University Health Care Group have been assessed in line with the HSE's Risk Assessment for Covid-19 Vaccination Guidelines for Healthcare Workers as "Category A".

T. Canavan, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group

W96Q3105	Since the re-opening of Pubs and night clubs could the HSE confirm the number of people presenting to A&E that is alcohol or drug related, has there been any data taken on the presentation of victims of Spiking/Needling in the Galway/Mayo/Roscommon A&E's.	Cllr D Killilea
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Hospitals in Galway, Mayo and Roscommon have not noted any increase in these types of presentations since the re-opening of pubs/nightclubs. Data relating to alcohol or drug related presentations is not specifically recorded across the sites.

A. Cosgrove, COO, Saolta University Health Care Group

W96Q3106	Can we have a updated report on the new proposed community hospital for Letterkenny?	Clr C Brogan
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The proposed community hospital in Letterkenny, consisting of 110 beds comprised of long and short stay bed spaces, as well as a dedicated rehabilitation unit, is currently at detail design stage. It is scheduled to issue for tender in Q1 2022 and, subject to funding, construction is expected to commence in Q3 2022.

John Hayes, Chief Officer, CHO1

W96Q3107	Can we get a updated report on the challenges in LUH, waiting lists, vacant positions, additional investment proposals?	Clr C Brogan
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Letterkenny University Hospital, along with all other hospitals in the country, is facing a number of challenges in relation to waiting lists, bed capacity, increased numbers of people attending the Emergency Department, staff recruitment and this is being exacerbated by the ongoing number of patients who need to be treated for COVID-19 in the hospital and in the ICU. Please see response to Q3096 for details in relation to waiting lists at the hospital.

Active patients waiting as of 11th November for inpatients and day case procedures and outpatients.

Inpatient and Day Cases Not Appointed	0-3 Mths	3-6 Mths	6-9 Mths	9-12 Mths	12-15 Mths	15-18 Mths	18-24 Mths	24-36 Mths	36-48 Mths	48+ Mths	Grand Total
Count of MRN	1569	770	494	380	518	290	598	721	58	3	5401

Outpatients Not Appointed	0-3 Mths	3-6 Mths	6-9 Mths	9-12 Mths	12-15 Mths	15-18 Mths	18-21 Mths	21-24 Mths	24-36 Mths	36-48 Mths	48+ Mths	Grand Total
Count of patient	3866	2314	1611	1151	1387	971	782	1023	2288	601	729	16723

Vacancies at LUH

Category of Staff	No. Of Vacancies	Planned Recruitment	Comment
Management Admin	10	Yes	Panels in place to fill these vacancies and recruitment also underway for Grade IV
Nursing (General)	55	Yes	Figure includes promotional nursing grades (10) and campaigns underway both at local level and overseas.
Women& Children	20	Yes	Figure includes promotional nursing grades (5) and campaign underway both at local level and overseas. Women & Children includes Maternity; Paeds & Neo Natal

Medical/Dental	4	Yes	Advertisement currently open for 1 post (no applicants to date) by Public Appointment Service. 1 Post - awaiting start date for appointed candidate - also from Public Appointment Service. Local recruitment - 2 appointments for 2 NCHD posts and awaiting start date following issue of visa.
General Support	10	Yes	Recruitment campaign underway and interviews scheduled.
Health & Social Care Professions	20	Yes	Recruitment campaign underway and interviews scheduled - includes Lab; Pharmacy; Physio & OT
Patient & Client Care	8	Yes	Recruitment campaign underway and interviews scheduled.
TOTAL	127		

In order to address the increase in the waiting lists times the hospital has:

- Additional endoscopy lists are being performed each day (7 days per week) except every other Sunday from now until the end of 2022. This is made possible by the opening of two rooms in the new Endoscopy Modular Unit.
- Availed of additional capacity made available under the HSE initiative with private hospitals.
- Engaged with the National Treatment Purchase Fund (NTPF) to source funding approval to outsource eligible patients to private hospitals.
- Recommended validation of patients on waiting lists to ensure that they still require treatment and appointments.
- Commenced a number of outpatient initiative clinics in the hospital funded through the NTPF.
- Undertaken an overseas nursing recruitment campaign as part of the Saolta Group, from which the hospital hopes to recruit 25 nurses to commence early in 2022.
- Hired 183 medical staff between December 2020 and end of October 2021.

A. Cosgrove, COO, Saolta University Health Care Group

W96Q3108	Can we have a updated report on future investment our community hospitals in Donegal?	Cllr C Brogan
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Dungloe Community Hospital

The refurbishment and upgrade of the existing community hospital at Dungloe, a live hospital environment over a number of phases is nearing completion. The works included the upgrade of existing wards, sanitary accommodation and M&E services to meet current HIQA standards with additional garden areas for the residents.

Falcarragh Community Hospital

The tender process has commenced for the refurbishment and upgrade of the existing community hospital at Falcarragh, Co. Donegal. The works will include the upgrade of existing wards, sanitary accommodation and M&E services to meet current HIQA standards. The project also includes the replacement of the existing roof. The works will be carried out in a live hospital environment over a number of phases with completion projected Q2 2023.

Buncrana Community Hospital

The refurbishment, extension and upgrade of the existing community hospital at Buncrana to meet current HIQA standards. The works will be carried out in a live hospital environment over a number of phases with completion projected Q2 2023.

Carndonagh Community Hospital

Phased construction and refurbishment is ongoing at Carndonagh Community Hospital. The works include replacement inpatient accommodation, external and internal renovation, including refurbishment of the ward block, reception and entrance area to meet current HIQA standards. The projected completion of all phased works is May 2022. The project also includes the replacement of the existing roof.

St. Joseph's and Ramelton Community Hospital

The appointment of Design Teams for the major capital projects at St Joseph's and Ramelton have progressed in 2021. It is intended to proceed with tender and construction in 2022/ 2023.

John Hayes, Chief Officer, CHO1

W96Q3109	Can we have a updated report on the new investment programme in ambulance service facilities in Donegal?	Cllr C Brogan
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The National Ambulance Service in conjunction with our colleagues in HSE Estates have undertaken a number of Key project over 2020/2021 in Donegal. Details below:

Minor Capital works were carried out in Letterkenny ambulance base over recent weeks. These works seen a total refurbishment of the ambulance base.

The new purpose built ambulance base in Stranorlar became operational on Monday 8th November. This is a new build state of the art facility on the ground of the St Josephs campus in Stranorlar.

Like Stranorlar a new purpose build facility will become operational in Donegal Town before years' end. This facility is included in the new primary care building in the town.

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

W96Q3110	Can I be provided with an explanation for the delays in recruiting the four diabetes CNS post, the three dietitian posts, and the additional two consultant endocrinologist posts for the University of Limerick Hospital, some of which were approved in January 2020?	Cllr C Murphy
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UL Hospitals Group recognises the need for additional resources within our adult diabetic services. This issue is a core focus for UL Hospitals Group and we are committed to improving the service for our patients. Developing services around insulin pump therapy and structured education in particular require us to fill further specialist posts, including nursing and dietitian posts.

While there is a specialist dietitian working with our paediatric diabetes patients, there is currently no specialist dietitian in post for adults with Type 1 Diabetes. Patients are seen by a ward dietitian as in-patients but there is no specialist dietetic care or outpatient appointments for adult diabetes patients in UHL.

Currently, the adult service in UHL is unable to commence adult patients on insulin pumps due to service demands. We do, however, accept patients established on pumps from elsewhere and these patients are managed under the care of a consultant endocrinologist. The largest group of these patients are those who have transferred from the paediatric diabetes service in UHL. All of our insulin pump patients are seen in University Hospital Limerick.

In December 2020, UL Hospitals Group received confirmation of funding to recruit three additional dietetic posts for the treatment of adult diabetes. This funding has been made available through the national clinical programme for diabetes. These posts include two senior dieticians and one staff grade dietician. I can confirm that the recruitment process for the two senior dieticians is at an advanced stage. The recruitment process is also ongoing for the staff grade dietician. We will be able to provide a more precise timeline on when we expect successful candidates to take up posts in the near future.

A second consultant endocrinologist took up post on the 1st October 2020. Two further consultant endocrinology posts have been approved for University Hospital Limerick. These posts are currently being progressed through the

approved HR process. It is not possible at this time to give a definitive timeline as to when these posts will be filled. The Adult Diabetes Service is also supported by a dedicated team of Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS) and Staff Nurses. Four Diabetic CNS posts have also been approved for University Hospital Limerick. Of these, two have been successfully recruited and will commence post over the coming months, the recruitment campaigns are currently ongoing for the other posts. There are also two Diabetic Staff Nurse positions within the Diabetes Unit at UHL, both of these positions have been filled. UL Hospitals Group continues to engage with the appropriate recruitment processes to ensure that all vacant posts are filled by suitable candidates.

Developing our diabetes services is a core focus for UL Hospitals Group and we are committed to improving this service for our patients.

C. Cowan, CEO, UL Hospitals Group

W96Q3111	Can I be provided with a breakdown in tabular form by the following age groups, under 18 and over 18, of how many hospital admissions through University of Limerick Hospitals Groups accident & emergency or AMAU departments are due to diabetic ketoacidosis DKA or to severe hypoglycaemia, for the years 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020?	Cllr C Murphy
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Please see below data in relation to your question regarding the number of hospital admissions through our ED and medical assessment units that were due to diabetic ketoacidosis or severe hypoglycaemia:

All ages	2017	2018	2019	2020	TOTAL
University Hospital Limerick ED	91	128	75	95	389
St. Johns Hospital; Limerick MAU	2	2	3	6	13
Ennis Hospital MAU	1	1	1	5	8
Nenagh Hospital MAU	4	2	0	3	9
Total	98	133	79	109	419

Age 18 +	2017	2018	2019	2020	TOTAL
University Hospital Limerick ED	72	110	65	75	322
St. Johns Hospital MAU	2	2	3	6	13
Ennis Hospital MAU	1	1	1	5	8
Nenagh Hospital MAU	4	2	0	3	9
Total	79	115	69	89	352

C. Cowan, CEO, UL Hospitals Group

W96Q3112	The National Incident Management System (NIMS) is a system to improve patient and service user safety. There are 5 reporting forms within the system... NIRF 1 Personal NIRF 2 Crash Collision NIRF 3 Property NIRF 4 Dangerous Occurrence The fifth being Covid specific My request is to be told how many NIRF 4 reports have been made by the members of the NAS in 2019, 2020 and 2021 for County Clare. These forms are where members of staff report an incident that has occurred they feel has the capacity to lead to unintended or unnecessary harm to themselves, to those in their care or to others within the service.	Cllr C Murphy
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Year	No of Dangerous Occurrences
2019	45

2020	123	44 related to use of Covid PPE and are not Dangerous Occurrences.
2021 YTD	60	

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

W96Q3113	What is the position with recruitment of personnel as Home Help workers in our communities? South Leitrim has an urgent need of Home help workers and personal care providers in the community. Have additional efforts been made to drive available people into this employment?	Cllr F Armstrong McGuire
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The provision of Home Support Services are an important element to support Older People to continue to live in their own homes and community. Access to the Service is currently based on assessment of an Individual's needs. The CHO1 Home Support Service is funded each year to deliver a service as approved in the National Service Plan. CHO1 target hours across our 5 counties has been set at 1,791,320 core hours, with an additional 555,000 hours allocated as part of the winter planning funding 2021.

Home Support Services in CHO1 are provided by both directly employed HSE Health Care Support Assistants (previously referred to as Home Help Workers) and also by Voluntary/Private Providers who have a formal tender agreement with the HSE to deliver services. Preliminary data available indicates that service provision should be at least 1,963m hours in 2021. This represents an increase of 333 k (20.4%) increase on the 2020 position.

In order to deliver these additional hours, all efforts by Service Managers and the Human Resource Departments have been utilised to increase the number of Health Care Support Assistants (HCSA) within the Service. CHO1 would estimate that an equivalent of 50wte (either employed Directly or Indirectly) are required to deliver the services for people on the existing waiting list as at the end of August 2021. In addition estimates indicate that a further 125wte are required to maximise service provision under the Winter Plan allocation. The Service continues to liaise with HR locally and I-BS nationally to ensure all avenues for recruitment continue to be fully explored.

With particular reference to the Sligo Leitrim area, a recruitment campaign for Health Care Support Assistants was undertaken by a specialist company called CPL Recruitment, on behalf of Health Business Services / National Recruitment. This yielded very limited success. Currently, our HR Department in Sligo Leitrim are running a rolling local campaign – without a defined closing date - to recruit Health Care Support Assistants on a permanent and temporary contract basis, with interviews being scheduled responsively, when sufficient numbers of applications are received.

John Hayes, Chief Officer, CHO1

W96Q3114	What is the current waiting list for CAHMS services for teenagers and adolescents in South West Donegal?	Cllr T Conaghan
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Donegal Child Adolescents Mental Health Services [CAMHS] have provided the following breakdown on waiting lists in DMHS as of **30/09/2021** -

CAMHS	North Donegal	South Donegal	Inishowen	Total
Total	38	17	31	86
0-3 months	32	15	22	69
3-6 months	6	2	9	17
6-9 months	0	0	0	0
9-12 months	0	0	0	0
>12 months	0	0	0	0

CAMHS:

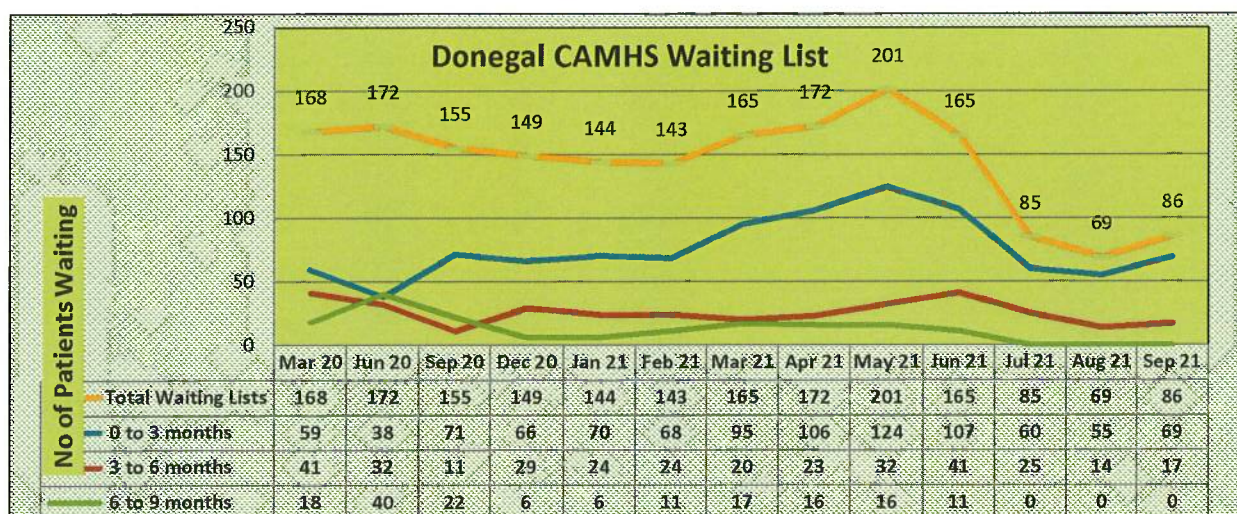
An analysis of September 2021 was completed [see Table 2] which demonstrates a significant improvement in the overall time period for young people accessing this service since 2020. This service improvement was driven by the Donegal Area Management Team by building the capacity within the teams. DMHS CAMHS successfully recruited a third Consultant Psychiatrist and now have three [3] teams who operate across the county. In addition, a 4th

Consultant Psychiatrist [CAMHS] was recruited for a specific period in the summer months [June to August 2021] to focus on addressing the ADHD waiting list.

When compared to December 2020, the overall waiting list has decreased by 42% (63 service users). In June 2020 there were 49 service users waiting in excess of 12 months for an appointment. The over 12 month waiting list was eradicated in June 2021 and remains at zero. Currently there are no service users waiting in excess of 6 months for an appointment in CAMHS.

Separately a total of 78 ADHD service users were assessed during the summer with 42 discharged with no further follow up from CAMHS required. The remaining 36 have been reabsorbed into the CAMHS teams for onward treatment.

Table 2: Donegal MHS CAMHS



The DAMHMT continue to monitor the improvements in CAMHS and are committed to developing this service capacity in 2022 with a number of community based initiatives to enable and support young people and their families to live well at home.

John Hayes, Chief Officer, CHO1

W96Q3115	What plans are in place to reduce these waiting lists in the CAMHS Service in the near future?	Cllr T Conaghan
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CHO 1 Mental Health Service to include Donegal Mental Health Services are currently involved in a national Community Waiting List Action Plan Mental Health initiative to reduce waiting lists. This initiative will for our purpose develop and improve current CAMHS services across all of CHO 1 with a focus on reducing waiting lists of > 9-12 months.

A business case for funding & once off resources is currently being prepared for submission as part of this national initiative and this will be submitted within the next two weeks to the national office. The Business case will include arrangements for additional capacity for Talking Therapies programme which has already commenced in DMHS. The Talking Therapies programme will improve access to psychological therapies for service users of the South Donegal & North West Donegal Community MH teams.

John Hayes, Chief Officer, CHO1

W96Q3116	Why are there so many people on trolleys at Mayo University Hospital and how many routine procedures have been cancelled since 1 st January 2021? How many people have been waiting for appointments at Mayo University Hospital for up to 1 year, for 1-2 years for 2-3 years and for over 3 years?	Cllr M Kilcoyne
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MUH, similar to hospitals right around the country, is dealing with increasing levels of attendances to its Emergency Department. This increase is resulting in a greater number of admissions to the hospital. The care needs of many of these patients require a greater length of stay in hospital.

Covid-19 is also continuing to have a significant impact on bed capacity. Covid takes, on average, somewhere between 10 and 25 beds out of the system either caring for patients with the virus directly or as a result of bed closures caused by Covid restrictions. This results in a reduced in-patient capacity. Despite having beds open in St. Johns this is impacting on the site.

As a result of Covid-19 all Emergency Departments are currently running two pathways to stream patients. To staff these pathways, nursing staff who previously worked in the Acute Medical Assessment Unit (AMAU) are now working in the Acute Covid Assessment Unit (ACAU) which is 24hours per day, 7 days per week.

MUH is currently recruiting to re-open the AMAU. It will open 3 days per week from the 6th of December. It is anticipated that this service will increase up to a 6 day service in early 2022 as more staff come on stream from an International recruitment campaign. This in turn will allow us to re-instate direct access from GP's back into the AMAU again in early 2022.

How many routine procedures have been cancelled since 1st January 2021?

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Oct	Nov	Total
Total	21	21	9	1	1	1	1	7	1	2	65

How many people have been waiting for appointments at Mayo University Hospital for up to 1 year, for 1-2 years for 2-3 years and for over 3 years?

Below are active patients waiting for both inpatient/day cases and outpatients by year band.

Mayo University Hospital	0-1 Yrs	1-2 Yrs	2-3 Yrs	3+ Yrs
Inpatient & Day Cases	1424	557	305	153
Outpatients	7431	2947	1300	1675

A. Cosgrove, COO, Saolta University Health Care Group

W96Q3117	How many inquests were held in the past two years, regarding people who died at Mayo University Hospital, where the verdict of the inquests were Medical Misadventure?	Cllr M Kilcoyne
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The number of verdicts on medical misadventure recorded by me at inquests in the past two years on persons who died in Mayo University Hospital was TWO(2)

Dr Patrick O'Connor, CORONER, District of Mayo

W96Q3118	How many Primary Care Centres are now fully operational in Mayo? How many of those centres are owned by the HSE and how many are in private ownership and leased to the HSE. List the procedures previously carried out in Mayo University Hospital that are now being carried out in the Primary Care Centres?	Cllr M Kilcoyne
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There are five Primary Care Centres operational in Mayo; Castlebar and Ballina are in private ownership and leased to the HSE. Westport, Ballinrobe and Claremorris are operated on a Public Private Partnership model. Procedures previously carried out in Mayo University Hospital and now carried out in Castlebar, Ballina and Claremorris Primary

Care Centres include X-Ray, Ultrasound and Mammography.		
Breda Crehan-Roche, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare West		
W96Q3119	Are there proposals to reduce the number of people employed on hygiene duties at the Sacred Heart Hospital, Castlebar on the night shift?	Clr M Kilcoyne/ Clr B Gavin
The cleaning resource is being aligned to where it is required and will be optimally utilized. The non-direct care staff requirements for cleaning and catering were determined by an external consultant nominated by SIPTU with the HSE and SIPTU agreeing to be bound by the Review. The HSE has implemented the recommendations and approved and recruited the recommended staff. The night duty recommendation from the Review is outstanding and the HSE has been seeking to implement it for some time with the process currently well advanced through the national Public Services Agreements and statutory Workplace Relations Commission enablers. The HSE is seeking to bring the matter to a conclusion. Breda Crehan-Roche, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare West		
W96Q3120	Will the HSE acknowledge the gross fund-raising difficulties encountered by the Blue Stack Foundation (Special Needs) and ICARE due to the Covid -19 pandemic and the country lockdown. Will the HSE ensure that adequate core funding costs is provided by the HSE to enable these essential services continue?	Clr A Doherty
It is widely reported that many voluntary sector organisations in the country experienced fund raising short falls due to Covid. The HSE cannot comment on income generation, including fund raising, by individual organisations it works with who may have charitable status in respect of the services and supports they offer. The HSE through its service arrangements with both organisations has provided funding to both organisations in 2021. Funding is provided for contracted services as costed and quantified and agreed to. The 2021 funding breakdown to both organisations is as follows: ICARE The HSE CHO1 funded iCARE for the following in 2021: • Core Funding - €36,000 • Support Packages - €46,588 • iAdult Day Services funding - €127,666 Additional funding of €3000 was provided to iAdult in 2020 for Covid required technology and €35,750 once off funding was given to support their needs including expanding space requirements. In addition personal protective equipment (PPE) is provided to this service from the HSE for Covid-19 infection prevention control purposes. BLUESTACK 2021 The HSE CHO1 funded Bluestack for the following in 2021 • Core Funding - €36,000 • Support Packages - €115,980 • In addition to this, personal protective equipment (PPE) is provided to this service from the HSE for Covid-19 infection prevention control purposes John Hayes, Chief Officer, CHO1		
W96Q3121	What are the immediate plans for the restoration Of "Day Care Services" at Carndonagh Community Hospital by the HSE? Will the HSE secure alternative locations for the resumption and provision of "Day Care Services" where and	Clr A Doherty

	when the continuation of the virus prevents resumption at Community Hospital locations?	
As the HSE continues to implement strict infection control guidelines in its management of COVID-19 for the protection of residents, staff, families and the wider community, a number of our Community Day Hospitals have been deemed unsuitable for continued usage, including Carndonagh Community Hospital Day Hospital; it is therefore unlikely that the Day Hospital will return to Carndonagh Community Hospital any time in the near future. The property management team has been tasked with finding a suitable alternative facility in the Carndonagh area with a view to commencing a new Day Hospital Service. The team is currently having difficulty in finding the appropriate facility in and around the Carndonagh area, so it is not possible to give a date for the reopening of the Carndonagh Day Hospital at this time. However, the Day Hospital has reopened in Buncrana and Day Centres have also reopened in the Clonmany and Moville areas that may offer an alternative outlet for older persons should local geography/eligibility criteria allow. Contact details for these day services are as follow. Buncrana Community Hospital - 074 93 61500 Clonmany Day Centre - 074 93 76603 Moville Day Centre - 074 93 82714 The Public Health Nurse Service can also provide information on possible alternative care options and the local PHN can be contacted at 074 – 9374953 for further information on this. John Hayes, Chief Officer, CHO1		
W96Q3122	Has the Property Management and Estates sources and secured residential homes for the service users in emergency respite care in Riverwalk House and are the three respite beds at Riverwalk House now available for service users requiring respite support? Has the lease and management of Milltown House been agreed with the friends of JCM by the HSE?	Cllr A Doherty
a). Currently, a number of service users are availing of respite in Riverwalk House, Carndonagh on an emergency full-time basis and there is no additional availability there at present. Alternative residential accommodation is actively being sought for these service users by Donegal Disability Services, Property Management and Estates. This will facilitate the reopening of Riverwalk for respite for other service users and their families and is a priority for Donegal Disability Services. To date, no suitable residential home has been identified for these service users. The provision of additional respite beds remains a priority for Donegal Services and we await approval of new service developments for 2022. Ballymacool Respite House is the alternative location for priority respite requests. Additional home support packages are also available to families who require support, and these are reviewed and enhanced as required. Donegal Disability Services wishes to sincerely apologise to the services users and their families in Inishowen for the impact that this situation is having on them and to assure them that every conceivable effort is being made to find a satisfactory outcome for all involved. b). The lease and usage of Milltown House has not been agreed with the Friends of JCM and engagement with the board of management of the Friends of JCM is ongoing. Restoration of the hydrotherapy service may be considered as part of the lease arrangement. John Hayes, Chief Officer, CHO1		
W96Q3123	When does the HSE intend to address the deficiencies in Arus Carolan Day care services for older people and thereby resume services as per 2019 and before Covid19. When do you expect services to resume for Clients in the Mohill area who wish to attend Arus Carolan as definite preference?	Cllr F Armstrong McGuire

Prior to the re-opening of Social Day Centres in County Leitrim, each Centre was inspected by a member of the Infection Prevention Control team, in order to determine compliance with Infection Prevention Control Guidance and the requirements set out by Public Health for Day Centres during/post COVID-19 pandemic.

Services provided in the Mohill Social Day Centre have been transferred to the purpose built Social Day Centre within the Ballinamore Primary Care Centre, due to HIQA non-compliance and Infection Prevention Control (IPC) guidance. The Mohill Social Day Centre was previously based in Arus Carolan, which is a HIQA Registered Nursing Unit.

The HSE fund the Leitrim Development Company (LDC) in order for it to employ an Active Age Officer, who has responsibility for the Social Day Centres and Active Age Groups that it manages. The Active Age Officer and staff consulted with service users at the Mohill Social Day Centre and informed them of the reason for the transfer to the Ballinamore Primary Care Centre. Transport has been made available to participants of the Active Age Groups in Mohill who wish to transfer to the Ballinamore Social Day Centre.

All older people who previously attended the Mohill Social Day Centre, have been offered a place in the Ballinamore Social Day Centre. I am advised that the majority of those who previously attended The Mohill Social Day Care Centre are now attending the Ballinamore Social Day Centre.

The Leitrim Development Company (LDC) has advised those older people who attended the Social Day Centre when it was based in Arus Carolan, of the opportunity to join the Active Age club in Mohill.

John Hayes, Chief Officer, CHO1

W96Q3124	That the Regional Health Forum West members be provided with details of how clinical files are moved between Sligo University Hospital and Facilities away from the file storage unit in the Main Hospital Building (On Campus and off). Details of where files are being moved to. The names and details of who is providing the service and what payments have been made in 2020 and so far in 2021.	Cllr D Gilroy
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Sligo University Hospital uses an external provider to move clinical files.

The following information is how the current system works:

- The files are transported in secure boxes, on a daily basis
- The files are delivered just after 8am every morning
- The files are requested through the Database system and this is followed up by a telephone call, if the files are needed urgently

SUH is currently going out to tender for this service. We cannot provide the name of the current provider or any details regarding this as this information is commercially sensitive and this is in line with Finance / Procurement guidance.

A. Cosgrove, COO, Saolta University Health Care Group

W96Q3125	Can the Regional Health Forum West report on the following regarding A+E at Sligo University Hospital for the year 2021? • What is the average waiting time for patients at Sligo University Hospital A+E Department? A. Until Treatment and discharge B. Until Admission to Hospital • What percentage of patients who arrive at A+E are referrals for Admission from GPs?	Cllr D Gilroy
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	What Percentage of patients at A+E are deemed to be under the influence of Alcohol or Drugs?	
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Patient Experience Times (PET) are measures and reported on a weekly / monthly basis for all Emergency attendances. This measures time of arrival to discharge or admission to inpatient bed.

In August and September, 70% of patients were seen and treated within 9 hours and 51.8% were seen and treated within 6 hours. This represents a dis-improvement in Patient Experience Time for patients from early 2021, where the average PET was 85% for 9 hours and 65% for 6 hours.

Based on figures gathered in 2020 for both Sligo University Hospital and Letterkenny University Hospital, the data indicated 39% referral rate from GPs across the two Hospital Emergency Departments.

We do not have specific data regarding the percentage of Emergency attendance as a result of alcohol or drugs.

A. Cosgrove, COO, Saolta University Health Care Group

W96Q3126	Can the Regional Health Forum West provide details of the average, longest and shortest waiting time from arrival to departure of Ambulances at Sligo University Hospital A+E and to include details of the average, longest and shortest time from arrival at the A+E until the patient is seen by clinical staff in the A+E Department.	Cllr D Gilroy
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Since the Pandemic began, NAS has experienced longer offload delays at EDs. Infection Prevention and Control Measures (IPC) have increased the length of time dealing with patients resulting in longer call durations.

Ambulance turnaround times are compiled from the time of arrival at the specific Emergency Department until the time they are clear and available to respond to another call. The detail below shows this data for Sligo University Hospital in relation to the month of September.

Saolta University Healthcare Group		September	2021
SLIGO GENERAL HOSPITAL			
Total AS1 & AS2 Ambulance Calls to Hospitals, Time calculated from arrival at Hospital until Clear	%	Total No of Calls	Average Time at Hospital
Cleared at Hospital in 20 Minutes or Less	1.2%	10	[1]:09:51
Cleared at Hospital in 30 Minutes or Less	6.3%	51	
Cleared at Hospital in 60 Minutes or Less	47.0%	379	
Cleared at Hospital 1 to 2 hours	46.3%	374	
Cleared at Hospital 2 to 3 hours	4.1%	33	
Cleared at Hospital 3 to 4 hours	2.0%	16	
Cleared at Hospital 4 to 5 hours	0.5%	4	
Cleared at Hospital 5 to 6 hours	0.1%	1	
Cleared at Hospital 6 to 7 hours			
At Hospital 7 - 14hours			
HOSP	100%	807	Total Time at Hospital 939:35

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

W96Q3127	Can the Regional Health Forum West Provide an update on what diabetes services have been moved to the new Diabetes Centre at Sligo University	Cllr D Gilroy
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	Hospital And if the centre is now fully staffed and operational and if not, what services are still waiting to be transferred to the new centre and why?	
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A significant portion of our services have now moved to the new facility. Staff from the Paediatric and Adult Diabetes services are also working from the same facility. This is important when patients transition from paediatric to adult services.

It was never intended that all diabetes services would run in the new unit. Some OPD clinics are very large and the space would not be sufficient.

Currently the Diabetes Centre runs a Consultant Led Paediatric Diabetes out-patient clinic once a week. Paediatric Diabetes Nurse Specialists run an Insulin Pump education programme once a week. Paediatric Diabetes Nurse Specialists also hold a review OPD clinic for children once a week.

Our Advanced Nurse Practitioner in Diabetes runs a full clinic from the Diabetes centre 2 days per week.

Adult Diabetes Nurse Specialists hold Antenatal education session in conjunction with a dietician once a week. They also hold joint type 1 diabetes education programmes with our dietician once a week, as well as adult daily 1:1 education sessions.

Adult Diabetes Nurse Specialists also continue to attend Endocrinology OPD clinics in the main hospital.

A. Cosgrove, COO, Saolta University Health Care Group

W96Q3128	What is the full complement (WTE) of nurses required to staff the Accident & Emergency Department in Sligo University Hospital; How many nursing staff were employed in the Department on 1st October 2020; on 1 st December 2020; on 1 st February 2021; on 1st April 2021; on 1st June 2021; on 1 st August 2021; on 1 st October 2021; How many nursing posts were vacant in the Department in each of the above months	Clr D Bree
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The Emergency Department nurse staffing levels are as follows:

	Oct-19	Oct-20	Dec-20	Feb-21	Apr-21	Jun-21	Aug-21	Oct-21	Nov-21
ED Nursing Whole-Time Equivalents	39.6	41.7	44.6	47.1	45.5	45.2	46.01	52.9	59.6
Vacancies in Recruitment (whole time equivalents)	4	9.5	12.5	4	9	8	10	7	10

There are 10 nursing vacancies in the department of which 5 have accepted and start dates have been agreed between November 2021 and January 2022. Interviews for 5 other promotions; posts are due to take place in November 2021.

T. Canavan, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group

W96Q3129	How many staff (WTE) are currently employed at Sligo University Hospital and how many staff were employed at the same time in 2020? Please list by occupation and how many are permanent, temporary, agency. How many staff vacancies are currently in Sligo University Hospital?	Clr D Bree
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Category of Staff	Sep-20			Sep-21		
	Perm	Temp	Agency*	Perm	Temp	Agency**
Management Admin	215	32		241	54	

Nursing/Midwifery	700	76	11.88	792	43	5.61
Medical/Dental	64	194	10.56	72	192	10.34
General Support	186	51		182	55	
Health & Social Care Professions	163	38	0.6	209	38	2.73
Patient & Client Care	159	21	22.07	171	11	43.39
TOTAL	1487	412	45.11	1667	393	62.07

*Agency by Indiv

Not Recorded

* Sept 2020 - wte equiv of Agency Hours by Staff category

** Sept 2021 - wte equiv of Agency Hours by Staff Category

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

Currently the hospital has over 200 posts at different stages of recruitment process, of which we have agreed start dates, 51 accepted and 16 awaiting acceptance.

T. Canavan, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group

W96Q3130	Does the HSE have a system in place whereby HSE employees have deductions made from their salaries for the payment of private health insurance?	Cllr D Bree
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The HSE processes payroll in the West region from three locations, being Limerick, Manorhamilton and Galway.

The options for Private Health Insurance deductions by location are as follows:-

Galway

- VHI
- Laya
- Irish Life
- Hospital Saturday Fund

Manorhamilton

- VHI
- Laya
- Irish Life
- Hospital Saturday Fund

Limerick

- VHI

Third party deductions from salary continue to be facilitated on a legacy basis only. No new third party deductions are created in any HSE payroll area.

National Finance Division - Payroll

W96Q3131	To ask (a) how many adults (over 18) in each county in the Health Forum area possessed a full medical card in December 2019 and in December 2020 (b) how many of those medical card holders in each county were prescribed (1) anti-depressants and the total cost of same in 2019 and in 2020 (2) Anxiolytics (Valium, Xanax etc) and the total cost of same in 2019 and in 2020 (3) Antipsychotics and the total cost of same in 2019 and in 2020	Cllr D Bree
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Please see attached report in relation to anti-depressants claims for 2019 and 2020.

CHO AREA	Number of Eligible Persons with Medical Cards as at December 2019	Number of people who received claims for anti-depressants for the year 2019	Number of Eligible Persons with Medical Cards as at December 2020	Number of people who received claimed for anti-depressants for the year 2020
CHO 1				
CAVAN/MONAGHAN	49,451	8,778	50,598	8,830
DONEGAL	75,168	11,988	76,507	12,109
SLIGO/LEITRIM/WEST CAVAN	36,962	6,921	37,827	6,977
TOTAL	161,581	27,687	164,932	27,916
CHO 2				
GALWAY	84,187	18,439	86,123	18,659
MAYO	53,276	9,449	54,242	9,757
ROSCOMMON	24,902	5,073	25,560	5,133
TOTAL	162,365	32,961	165,925	33,549
CHO 3				
CLARE	39,655	6,871	40,489	6,937
NORTH TIPPERARY/EAST LIMERICK	26,178	5,323	26,775	5,304
LIMERICK	69,963	14,816	71,564	15,009
TOTAL	135,796	27,010	138,828	27,250
RHO HSE West Total	459,742	87,658	469,685	88,715

Note: The information provided is based on claim data which has been received by the Primary Care Reimbursement Service (PCRS) from Community Pharmacists and includes items reimbursed by PCRS only.

This data does not capture items dispensed outside of community drug schemes where the prescription has been paid for privately by the patient or patient representative.

National Medical Card Unit

W96Q3132	Update on CAMHS Connect and review of its operation and staffing since initial set up in HSE West. Is the Connect format effective and acceptable to service users? How many children/adolescents are currently awaiting an initial CAMHS appointment and what are the waiting list times?	Cllr E Francis Parsons
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Update on CAMHS Connect and review of its operation and staffing since initial set up in HSE West:

Approval has been given for the recruitment of 7 staff to put in place the CAMHS Connect service in Aras Naomh Chaolain, Castlerea, i.e. for the following posts:

- Consultant Psychiatrist
- NCHD
- Advance Nurse Practitioner

- Senior Social Worker
- Clinical Nurse Specialist
- Senior Psychologist
- Senior Occupational Therapist

The Consultant, NCHD, Advanced Nurse Practitioner and Senior Social Worker for this Team have all been recruited and the remaining 3 posts are at an advanced stage of recruitment.

The following are the services now available from the CAMHS Connect Team:

- CAMHS Multi-Disciplinary Team clinics including a monthly CAMHS MHID clinic.
- Diagnostic assessments
- CBT and family therapy
- Outreach support
- CAMHS group work operates to deliver therapy to young people, (a number of these young people have individual support based on need), including innovative services such as O.T. interventions using virtual reality technology for groups of young people e.g. anxiety management
- Local youth agencies, supported by CAMHS staff holding groups in the hub.

Is the Connect format effective and acceptable to service users:

The CAMHS Connect service has evaluated its services from its inception. The feedback from young people has improved since face to face groups have re-started.

Recent qualitative feedback includes

- It's good to have different staff each week facilitating groups and good to have a change of topic each week. (This model of working allows us to provide broad Multi-Disciplinary input and cover the pertinent issues in relation to young people's mental health)
- The group addresses issues that young people are experiencing
- The activities and outdoor time are welcome
- Young people valued being asked for feedback and suggested an anonymous suggestion box
- Young people found some of the ice breaker activities a bit awkward
- Suggested additional time for social interaction or opportunities to chat with each other (compliance to COVID 19 guidelines has limited meeting time to one hour)

All YP were positive about their experiences of attending. Some were eager to attend for a follow on group if one was available and all would recommend it to a friend if he/she were experiencing difficulties.

In collaboration with the Community teams, CAMHS Connect service provides intensive outreach support to YP, either to prevent hospital admission or facilitate early discharge from hospital. This is a very successful intervention and there is very positive feedback from parents and families.

Systemic therapy, CBT, individual therapy and EMDR are often provided to support and augment all the above therapies.

How many children/adolescents are currently awaiting an initial CAMHS appointment and what are the waiting list times:

The waiting lists refers to all CAMHS teams across Galway, Mayo and Roscommon

95 on waiting list

9 waiting 0-3 months

36 waiting 3-6 months

Breda Crehan-Roche, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare West

W96Q3133	Update on installation of CT replacement scanner in PUB including status of necessary building works to accommodate same. Update on capital provision and timeline for acquisition of second CT scanner for PUB.	Cllr E Francis Parsons
The replacement of the CT Scanner at PUH has been approved and the replacement scanner is ordered. An area has been identified in the under-croft of the Theatre which is adjacent to the ground floor of the hospital. This area will be developed to accommodate the replacement CT scanner. The hospital is awaiting a work schedule and timeframe for this project and are working with the Design Team at the present time. We are currently renting a temporary CT Scanner while we await the replacement. A. Cosgrove, COO, Saolta University Health Care Group		
W96Q3134	Update on roll out programme COVID boosters to Healthcare Workers. Outline the operating procedure with regard to non-vaccinated hospital healthcare workers - those not accepting vaccination. Are those numbers known in CHO2 hospitals? Is there a requirement for the COVID vaccination status of all hospital staff to be transparent ie as there is for individuals on entry to hospitality premises?	Cllr E Francis Parsons
There has been a significant demand to receive the COVID-19 vaccine to date and all indications are that there is a very high take up of vaccination by healthcare staff, which is welcome. There is policy in place to address situations where staff in critical roles are unvaccinated, which is managed at a local healthcare site level, and we know this is a relatively small number in the context of the total healthcare workforce. Please see link for current Risk Assessment guidance: https://www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/hcpinfo/covid19vaccineinfo4hps/risk-assessment-for-covid-19-vaccination-for-hcp.pdf Participation in vaccination programmes in Ireland is not mandatory. Should a person change their mind, vaccination can be made available to them. We continue to vaccinate new healthcare staff and have processes in place to ensure new healthcare workers are vaccinated. A healthcare worker's vaccination status is matter between the line manager and the individual staff member when the risk assessment is being conducted. A total of 3% of staff members in the Saolta University Health Care Group have been assessed in line with the HSE's Risk Assessment for Covid-19 Vaccination Guidelines for Healthcare Workers as "Category A". Booster vaccinations are currently being administered in the community to healthcare workers (HCWs) and people aged 60+. Up to November 15, the Saolta Group has provided booster shots to a total of 11,217 people across the West and North West. Of these 9,512 were healthcare workers. The group are now providing walk-in clinics for healthcare workers which have proved hugely successful. On the weekend of November 20/21 a total of 2,225 Healthcare workers availed of booster vaccines at our clinics. The Minister of Health has announced the extension of the booster programme to people aged 50-59, all remaining residents of residential care facilities and all those aged 16+ with a relevant underlying health condition. T. Canavan, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group		
W96Q3135	Question converted to Motion.	Cllr E Francis Parsons
W96Q3136	What Mental Health HSE supports are currently in place to assist individuals and families affected by Covid -19, Remote working & unemployment and the emotional scourge that is MICA in family homes?	Cllr A Doherty
It is acknowledged that many members of the public may have been exposed to a range of psychological distress		

due to the ongoing Covid 19 pandemic.

Since the beginning of the Covid 19 crisis, the HSE and many Not for Profit agencies have been actively engaged in providing psychosocial (mental and social wellbeing) supports and services to both HSE staff and to the many different communities in our society. This has included creating many online and enhanced national services which provide essential support to those that require it for the short-to-medium term. These include innovative online, text and phone therapeutic supports. These include the following -

Minding Your Wellbeing

Free series of online video resources to learn and practice key elements of mental wellbeing such as mindfulness, gratitude, self-care and resilience from HSE Health and Wellbeing.

MyMind

An Online counselling service including free appointments for people directly affected by COVID-19.

Stress Control

Stress Control classes are a three week programme with classes twice weekly (6 sessions in all). These courses are run on a monthly basis, the most recent of which commenced on 1st of November and there is no limit on the number of participants.

The online Stress Control classes available at the following web addresses -

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/health/hl/selfmanagement/donegal/programmes-services/stress-control/>
<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/healthwellbeing/about-us/free-online-stress-control-classes.html>

Seniorline

Confidential listening service for older people provided by trained older volunteers.

Full details of all available supports and services can be found on [yourMentalHealth.ie](https://www.hse.ie/eng/health/hl/selfmanagement/donegal/programmes-services/stress-control/).

In addition to the above, individuals or families who are experiencing additional stress at this time due to Covid, changes in work practices, financial stress or the stress of any other cause (including MICA in family homes) have a number of HSE services of which they can avail.

In the first instance, the family doctor or GP can assess and advise any individual or family. If the GP considers that further support and input is required for management of stress, the Counselling in Primary Care (CIPC) service is available free of charge to medical card holders, and to which the GP can refer directly. Information on this service is available via the following web address -

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/mental-health-services/counsellingpc/>

In relation to the MICA crisis, a specific online Management session was held in early October and this can be rolled out again as the demand requires. In addition any adult affected by the chronic stress of the Mica issue may seek to avail of CIPC Counselling in Primary Care. Again, referral should be through the family GP as per usual for CIPC Counselling with specific reference to Mica.

In cases of more significant mental health problems, the GP can make a referral to the Mental Health Services in Donegal and in Sligo Leitrim. Within the mental health services, additional services which can be offered include: psychiatric assessment, multidisciplinary team assessment, cognitive behavioural therapy, family therapy, community mental health nurse support, eating disorder therapy, early intervention in psychosis, day hospital support and inpatient care.

John Hayes, Chief Officer, CHO1

W96Q3137	How many people are currently awaiting MRI's and CT's as outpatient's and inpatient's in GUH? What are the current hours of operation for routine and outpatient MRI's and CT's in GUH? Are MRI's available 24 hours a day currently at GUH?	Cllr D Ó Cualáin
Outpatients data as of 09.11.21 report - Awaiting MRI:3526 and MRI GA(general anaesthetic) 152 - Awaiting CT:1870 Inpatients –variable daily figures - MRI: Figures vary daily but on average 30 per day. - CT: Figures vary daily but on average 20 per day. What are the current hours of operation for routine and outpatient MRI's and CT's in GUH? CT scheduled hours Monday to Friday 08.00 – 18.00 On call emergency Monday to Friday 18.00 – 08.00/ Saturday & Sunday 08.00 – 08.00 MRI scheduled hours Monday to Friday 08.00 – 18.00 On call emergency Monday to Friday 18.00 – 08.00/ Saturday & Sunday 08.00 – 08.00 Are MRI's available 24 hours a day currently at GUH? MRI is available 24/7 as described above. We have recently restored the electronic link with the Bon Secours Hospital and recommenced access to CTs. This will give some additional capacity between now and year end. Work is also ongoing to restore links with the Galway Clinic. A. Cosgrove, COO, Saolta University Health Care Group		
W96Q3138	What guidance or advice has been given to the routine G.P service and out of hours G.P service in relation to seeing patients in their clinics without having a covid-19 screen? Is there a requirement for a patient to have a covid-19 screen before being seen by a G.P? Does the advice differ whether the patient is an adult or a child? Has guidance been given to G. P's to return to seeing patient's normally for routine appointments now?	Cllr D Ó Cualáin
Since the commencement of COVID 19 much advice has been issued to GPs and GP Out of Hours services regarding the management of patients during the pandemic. This advice, which includes Algorithms, pathways of care etc, has been mainly issued from the HSE at national level via the Irish College of General Practitioners. Further advice has been issued to GPs in this area from the Public Health Department, HSE West. Following receipt of this information, GP practices and GP Out of Hours services would have developed their own policies and procedures on seeing patients based on their own particular circumstances and endeavoured to continue to see patients during the pandemic where they judged it clinically necessary to do so and where it was safe to do so. In general when patients (adults or children) ring GP practices seeking an appointment they are asked if they have a cough, fever or flu like symptoms, If so, they are generally given a telephone consultation and may be referred for a PCR test. If not, they are generally seen in the GP surgery. If they have persistent respiratory symptoms and a negative PCR test, they are generally seen by GPs wearing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Many more patients are attending GP surgeries in person in recent times than was the case previously. However it must be remembered that the pandemic is an evolving matter which must be monitored on an on-going basis. GPs want to see their patients but must do so taking cognisance of their safety and that of their staff, together with the safety of other patients who attend the surgery. Breda Crehan-Roche, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare West		

W96Q3139	Can I get a breakdown in tabular form on the number of Lead's, Advanced Paramedics, Paramedics and EMT's that were and are stationed permanently by station in Galway City, Carraroe, Clifden, Loughrea, Tuam and Ballinasloe in October 2020 and in October 2021? Has there been any reduction in the number of staff in these stations in that time or the level of expertise provided? What level of service is provided by each station?	Clr D Ó Cualáin
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Permanent Assigned Positions in October 2020 and October 2021

Note: Lead Paramedic: LP
 Lead Advanced Paramedic: LAP
 Advanced Paramedic: AP

Oct-20

Total Rostered	Station	L.P.	LAP	AP	Paramedics	EMT
49	Galway city	5	2	11	17	14
8	Carraroe	0	2	3	3	0
8	Clifden	1	1	1	5	0
8	Loughrea	1	1	2	4	0
8	Tuam	1	1	1	5	0
12	Ballinasloe	2	0	2	8	0

Oct-21

Total Rostered	Station	L.P.	LAP	AP	Paramedics	EMT
49	Galway city	5	2	12	16	14
8	Carraroe	2	0	2	4	0
8	Clifden	1	1	1	5	0
8	Loughrea	1	1	2	4	0
8	Tuam	1	1	1	5	0
12	Ballinasloe	2	0	2	8	0

Service Level Resources By Day

Oct 2020

Stations	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Galway	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Clifden	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Carraroe	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Louhhrea	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Ballinasloe	2	2	2	1	2	2	2
Tuam	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
RRV Galway	1	1	1	1	1	0	1

Oct 2021

Stations	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Galway	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Clifden	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Carraroe	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Louhhrea	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Ballinasloe	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Tuam	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
RRV Galway	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Galway ICV Operates on Min/Max roster - Daily x 7 - Minimum is 1 ICV and Max is 3 ICV.

Gaway							
MICAS	1	1	1	1	1	0	0

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

W96Q3140	Can I get an update in relation to progress for a Primary Care Centre for Spiddal? Where does this project currently stand? Has a site been identified and a planning application lodged?	Clr D Ó Cualáin
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In relation to the development of the proposed Primary Care Centre for Spiddal the HSE can confirm that HSE Estates are currently at Stage 3 of the process. Expressions of interest were received and a number of potentially suitable sites identified. Requests for priced offers are due to be issued in the coming weeks.

Breda Crehan-Roche, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare West

W96Q3141	Can the fair deal scheme be rolled out to families to avail of for families trying to keep their loved ones at home and not to place them in nursing homes	Clr F Gurn
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The Nursing Homes Support Scheme (NHSS) is a statutory scheme of financial support to clients who require long term residential care. NHSS State Support may be paid to a registered Nursing Home on behalf of a client who is deemed to require such care services. It is not possible to utilise NHSS funding for any other service.

Home support services are also provided by the HSE which is funded separately to NHSS.

Ultan Hynes, Head of Service, Nursing Homes Support Scheme, Older People Operations

W96Q3142	Can we have an update on staff shortages for home help, shortages has left staff burnt out, working over the pandemic and staff not replaced who have left the sector and agency workers brought in while there should be full time staff brought in.	Clr F Gurn
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The provision of Home Support Services are an important element to support Older People to continue to live in their own homes and community. Access to the Service is currently based on assessment of an Individual's needs. The CHO1 Home Support Service is funded each year to deliver a service as approved in the National Service Plan. CHO1 target hours across our 5 counties has been set at 1,791,320 core hours, with an additional 555,000 hours allocated as part of the winter planning funding 2021.

Home Support Services in CHO1 are provided by both directly employed HSE Health Care Support Assistants (previously referred to as Home Help Workers) and also by Voluntary/Private Providers who have a formal tender agreement with the HSE to deliver services. Preliminary data available indicates that service provision should be at least 1,963m hours in 2021. This represents an increase of 333 k (20.4%) increase on the 2020 position.

In order to deliver these additional hours, all efforts by Service Managers and the Human Resource Departments have been utilised to increase the number of Health Care Support Assistants (HCSA) within the Service. CHO1 would estimate that an equivalent of 50wte (either employed directly or indirectly) are required to deliver the services for people on the existing waiting list as at the end of August 2021. In addition estimates indicate that a further 125wte are required to maximise service provision under the Winter Plan allocation. The Service continues to liaise with HR locally and I-BS nationally to ensure all avenues for recruitment continue to be fully explored.

With particular reference to the staff shortages and the replacement of staff, recruitment efforts for directly employed Health Care Support Assistants are active and ongoing. CHO1 currently have a total of 623 wte staff directly employed in Health Care Support Assistant roles, as at the end of September 2021. In certain circumstances and geographical locations, it can be challenging to recruit and retain staff, and so supplementary services may be provided by Voluntary / Private Providers and/or Agency staff to ensure continuity of care.

John Hayes, Chief Officer, CHO1

W96Q3143	Can I be informed as to how many Nurses/Doctors resigned/retired from Letterkenny University Hospital since Dec 2020 the Departments they were attached to and the number of Nurses/Doctors that have been recruited since Dec 2020 to Letterkenny University Hospital and the number of unfilled Posts currently at the hospital.	Cllr G McMonagle
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From December 2020 up to the end of October 2021 a total of 45 nurses have left Letterkenny University Hospital: 8 nurses retired; 12 took a career break; 6 were going abroad; 19 for other reasons. These nurses were from all directorates - Medicine, Peri-Operative; Cancer and Ambulatory; and Women and Children's.

Since December 2020, the hospital has recruited 89 nurses. Currently, there are 45 WTE unfilled posts for which the hospital is actively recruiting. An overseas nursing recruitment campaign is also underway as part of the Saolta Group from which the hospital hopes to recruit 25 nurses to commence early in 2022.

The six monthly rotations of NCHDs is in January and July of each year, many of whom rotate to other hospitals to continue their training when their six month or 12 month contract comes to an end.

149 Medical Staff have left Letterkenny University Hospital since December 2020, from across all directorates. The majority of medical staff left the hospital because their contract came to an end. There were 183 medical staff hired between December 2020 and end of October 2021.

T. Canavan, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group

W96Q3144	How many Ambulance Crews do we have on duty covering the County Donegal on a 24 hour basis, where are they based and what protocol is put in place when we have multiple ambulances docked at Letterkenny University Hospital to continue coverage of the County?	Cllr G McMonagle
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The National Ambulance Service operate from Eight locations across Donegal. These are Letterkenny, Carndonagh, Lifford, Stranorlar, Donegal Town, Ballyshannon, Killybegs, and Dungloe.

The table below sets out the number of crews at each location day and night.

Station	Number of crews Day	Number of crews Night
Letterkenny	4 (Mon, Fri, Sat, Sun) 3 (Tue, Wed, Thur)	2
Carndonagh	2	1
Finn Valley (Stranorlar & Lifford)	1 (Monday through Friday)	1 (Fri, Sat & Sun)
Donegal town	1	1
Ballyshannon	1	1

Killybegs	1	1
Dungloe	2	1

The National Ambulance Service operate the Joint Framework Agreement protocol for the transfer of patients from pre-hospital care to hospital care. This protocol also encompasses process's for when multiple ambulances are docked at hospitals.

The protocol is intended to apply principles that will reduce the overall risk to the whole health system. In addition, this process also set out the escalation process to be used by NAS to alert the required level of management, both within NAS and also the wider healthcare system.

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

W96Q3145	Can I have a breakdown of the Staff at the Oncology Unit at LUH, the number of vacant Posts and the waiting times and numbers for Patients awaiting Oncology services and treatment?	Cllr G McMonagle
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There are currently 56 staff working in Oncology Services at Letterkenny University Hospital both in day services and inpatient wards. The staff is comprised of: three Medical Consultants; three Registrars; two Senior House Officers; 40 nursing staff; and eight support staff. The hospital has recently received approval for an additional Clinical Nurse Specialist and an Advanced Nurse Practitioner and these posts have been advertised.

The number of new patients awaiting outpatient oncology appointments.

LUH			wait time
Specialty	Consultant	Triage Urgency	0-3 Months
Oncology	Oncology Consultant	Urgent	45
	Oncology Consultant Total		45

T. Canavan, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group

W96Q3146	What Steps are SAOLTA taking to address the Bed and Staff shortages at LUH and reduce waiting times at the hospitals Accident and Emergency Department?	Cllr G McMonagle
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The wait times in the Emergency Department (ED) are partially related to the volume of patients attending the ED and the seriousness of the illnesses that they are presenting with. Eleven of the highest Emergency Department attendances recorded have occurred in 2021 with daily attendance numbers greater than 160.

Since Monday 20 September, a General Physician has been working at triage level in the Emergency Department from 12 noon to 12 midnight and is proactively seeing medical patients who have been triaged as non COVID-19 suspected cases. These patients are being either discharged or admitted by the General Physician which reduces the length of time patients are waiting.

An additional Medical Registrar is on duty in the Respiratory Receiving Unit (where patients suspected of having COVID-19 are treated) from Monday to Thursday to assist with the patient flow.

The Community Assessment Hub is opened on the St Conal's Campus to support ambulatory patients requiring respiratory diagnostics and onward specialist intervention if required. It is anticipated that this service will reduce the number of people who need to come to the Emergency Department for treatment.

A Trauma Assessment Clinic has been established for patients with a suspected fracture to be reviewed virtually by a Consultant-led Team and followed up by the Specialist Physician and/or nurse if required. This clinic has

successfully reduced inappropriate attendances at the ED.

In addition Medical 6 and Medical 7 are newly opened facilities for acute admissions which is funded by the Winter Plan. Medical 7 was initially used for the Green Pathway elective surgery but since early June it has been used for emergency admissions.

One section of Medical 6 is being used for Medical day Care Treatment primarily infusions, another area in Medical 6 is being used for ambulatory urology including outpatients cystoscopy, the remainder is currently being used to decant In-patients beds in order to facilitate the orthopaedic ward refurbishment which has commenced.

Senior hospital management are working with colleagues in Community Healthcare Organisation 1 to recruit several consultants and support staff in a number of specialities in order to enhance community care and reduce the number of admissions to the hospital going forward. Specifically this relates to respiratory, diabetes and older peoples services. It is anticipated that these new developments will help alleviate demand for acute inpatient beds and promote improved quality services delivered in the community.

An overseas nursing recruitment campaign is also underway as part of the Saolta Group from which the hospital hope to recruit 25 nurses to commence early in 2022.

T. Canavan, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group

W96Q3147	Could I be informed if any further progress has been made between the HSE's Capital Estates Division and the developer with a view to successfully concluding legal and leasing agreements for the proposed Primary Health Care Centre in Oranmore.	Cllr L Carroll
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There has been a change in the senior management team at Zest Healthcare responsible for the management and development of their primary care centre portfolio. In recent times the HSE's Capital & Estates division have had specific engagement with that new management team in respect of the Oranmore project. Further discussions are planned in the coming weeks to determine if a legal agreement can be successfully concluded to progress the proposed project.

Joe Hoare, Assistant National Director, Capital & Estates West

W96Q3148	Could I be informed of the numbers of children awaiting assessment for Speech & Language Therapy and for Dental and Orthodontic treatment in the Oranmore, Maree, Clarinbridge and Carnmore areas and the lengths of waiting time involved.	Cllr L Carroll
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In the Galway area there are 910 children waiting for orthodontic assessment. However GUH have increased the number of assessments currently including targeted initiative weeks once per month. GUH are hoping to reduce the backlog greatly by next Summer.

Currently there are some routine patients on that list who have been waiting since 2019. This is because very few assessments were done in 2020 due to COVID.

A. Cosgrove, COO, Saolta University Health Care Group

The response for the Speech and Language Therapy Department is as follows:

There are 50 children awaiting initial Speech and Language Therapy assessment in the areas listed and the current waiting list for initial assessment currently stands at approximately 9 months.

The response from the Dental department is as follows:

Due to COVID 19, Dentists are having difficulty gaining access to schools.

We are unable to provide exact numbers waiting on dental treatment in these areas as the children in the schools in

the areas have not been assessed as yet.

The HSE is endeavouring to work with schools and to reduce delays.

Breda Crehan-Roche, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare West