

Minutes of Regional Health Forum West Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday, 24th September, 2019 at 2.00pm in Room 1, Education Centre, HSE Offices, Merlin Park, Galway.

Miontuairiscí Cruinnithe Chinn Bhliana an Fhóiraim Réigiúnach Sláinte, a tionóladh ar an 24^ú Meán Fómhair, 2019 ag 2.00 .i.n, i Seomra 1 an tIonad Oideachais, Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte, Campas Ospidéal Páirc Mheirlinne, Gaillimh

Chairperson: Cllr John Carroll

Members Present	Members Present (continued)	Members Absent
Cllr Finola Armstrong-McGuire	Cllr Felim Gurn	Cllr Frankie Daly
Cllr Declan Bree	Cllr Sean Hartigan	Cllr Francis Foley
Cllr Ciaran Brogan	Cllr Michael Kilcoyne	Cllr Noel Larkin
Cllr Pat Burke	Cllr Donagh Killilea	Cllr Dan McSweeney
Cllr Liam Carroll	Cllr Seamus Morris	Cllr John Sheahan
Cllr Bill Chambers	Cllr Dara Mulvey	Cllr Kevin Sheahan
Cllr Tom Conaghan	Cllr Cillian Murphy	
Cllr John Connolly	Cllr Declan McDonnell	APOLOGIES
Cllr Gerry Crawford	Cllr Martin McLoughlin	Cllr John Egan
Cllr Tom Crosby	Cllr Gerry McMonagle	
Cllr John Cummins	Cllr Dáithi Ó Cualáin	
Cllr Albert Doherty	Cllr John O'Hara	
Cllr Aisling Dolan	Cllr Peter Roche	
Cllr Paddy Farrell	Cllr Peter Ryan	
Cllr Róisín Garvey	Cllr Tony Ward	
Cllr Blackie Gavin		
Cllr Donal Gilroy		

In attendance:

Colette Cowan, Chief Executive Officer, UL Hospitals Group
 Grainne McCann, General Manager, Sligo University Hospital
 Tony Canavan, Executive Lead, Regional Health Forum/CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group
 Joe Hoare, Assistant National Director of Estates (West)
 Denise Curran, General Manager, Social Care, CHO Area 1
 Maria Bridgeman, Chief Officer, Mid West Community Healthcare
 Norah Owens, Regional Health Forum Office
 Marian Cavanagh, Regional Health Forum Office

712/83/19 – Minutes of previous meeting 25th June, 2019

The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 25th June, 2019 were proposed by Cllr Tony Ward and seconded by Cllr Albert Doherty and adopted.

713/83/19 Matters Arising:

Cllr Donagh Killilea suggested that the option of using a Credit Card in the Westdoc facility should be addressed.

Action: The Manager of Westdoc to review this.

Cllr D Ó Cualáin requested an update on Physiotherapy Services in Connemara.

Action: A/Chief Officer, Community Healthcare West to respond to Cllr Ó Cualáin.

Cllr Michael Kilcoyne and Cllr Tom Crosby suggested having a presentation on the Medical Card Section at a Regional Health Forum Committee meeting.

Action: RHF to arrange a presentation on Medical Cards to the members at a RHF Committee Meeting.

714/83/19 Chairman's Address:

Apologies were noted from Cllr John Egan

The Newsletter was reviewed and circulated.

715/83/19 Questions:

W83Q2512 - 50 bedded Unit - Sacred Heart Hospital Roscommon

Action: J. Hoare to keep Cllr T Ward updated on the 50 bedded Ward at Sacred Heart Hospital, Roscommon.

W83Q2515 – Paediatric waiting list for Occupational Therapy – South Roscommon

Action: A/Chief Officer, Community Healthcare West to keep Cllr T. Ward up to date on the progress of the waiting list and filling of the post.

W83Q2520 – New Primary Care Centre in Tubbercurry, Sligo

Action: J. Hoare to keep Cllr Dara Mulvey up to date on the progress of this Primary Care Centre.

W83Q2523 & W83Q2558 – No Deal Brexit protection for Services along the Border.

Action: J. Hennessy to provide further information on what the consequences are on a no deal Brexit for Cancer Services, Cardiac Services etc. across the Border.

W83Q2525 – Estimate Aids & Appliances costs 2017 & 2018

Action: J Hayes to revert to Cllr Gerry Crawford with this response.

W83Q2526 – Community Hospital Network, Donegal.

Action: J Hayes to revert to Cllr Ciaran Brogan with more information on how much investment is allocated for the CNU's in Donegal.

W83Q2527–Radiology Dept, Letterkenny University Hospital

Action: T Canavan agreed to organise a visit for the Donegal councillors at the new Radiology Dept, Letterkenny University Hospital.

W83Q2529 – Number of Vacancies in each department in LUH

Action: T Canavan agreed to get this response to Cllr Brogan in the next week.

W83Q2533 - Tender for works at Carndonagh Community Hospital

Action: J Hayes to keep Cllr A Doherty up to date on the progress on the tender process.

W83Q2543 – ED Statistics on wait times

Action: T Canavan agreed to supply Cllr J Connolly with the link regarding the waiting timeframes in the Emergency Department.

W83Q2549 – Primary Care Centres in Connemara.

Action: J Hoare, Estates to keep Cllr D Ó Cualáin up to date on the progress with Primary Care Centres in Connemara, in particular the progress of the Spiddal site.

W83Q2555– Report on the Flooding at Letterkenny University Hospital.

Action: T Canavan undertook to revert to the Legal team for advice on the circulation of this report and will revert to Cllr G McMonagle.

W83Q2556 – Vacant positions at Letterkenny University Hospital.

Action: T Canavan agreed to get this response to Cllr McMonagle in the next week.

716/83/19 Motions:

W83M96: Nursing Home facility at Ballymote Co Sligo –

This Motion was proposed by Cllr Dara Mulvey and seconded by Cllr Declan Bree.

Action: J Hayes to progress this project and keep all members informed.

W83M97: Formal presentation on Sláintecare.

This Motion was proposed by Cllr Ciaran Brogan and seconded by Cllr Gerry Crawford.

The motion was unanimously carried by the Members.

Action: T Canavan agreed to bring a presentation to the members at a RHF committee later in the year.

W83M98: Regulations around Vaping.

This Motion was proposed by Cllr Felim Gurn and seconded by Cllr Paddy Farrell.

Action: This Motion was referred to the Director of Public Health - Dr. Kevin Kelleher for an opinion.

W83M99: Employment of Student Nurses.

This Motion was proposed by Cllr D Ó Cualáin and seconded by Cllr Declan McDonnell

The motion was unanimously carried by the Members.

Action: This Motion was referred to Minister Simon Harris for a response.

W83M100: Donagh Park Estate and Carndonagh CNU – Public Footbridge

This Motion was proposed by Cllr A Doherty and seconded by Cllr G McMonagle.

Action: J Hayes to engage with Donegal County Council to ensure all safety measure around the footbridge are completed.

717/83/19 – Any Other Business:

Cllr D Bree requested all correspondence and representations sent to the Chief Officer in his area should be acknowledged and responded to without delay.

718/83/19 Date & Time of Next Meeting:

The next **Regional Health Forum Committee** meeting will take place on Tuesday, 22nd October, 2019 at 2pm in Manorhamilton following a site visit to the Ambulance Call Centre in Ballyshannon.

The next **Regional Health Forum** meeting will take place on Tuesday, 26th November, 2019 at 1pm in Galway.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach/Chairman

Adopted at the Regional Health Forum West meeting

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM WEST – 26th NOVEMBER 2019

NUMBER	QUESTION	RAISED BY	PAGE No.
W84Q2564	Appointment of a Speech & Language Therapist – St. Cecelia’s Sligo	Cllr D Mulvey	2
W84Q2565	Medical Card patients to GP	Cllr M Kilcoyne	2
W84Q2566	Places for urgent cancer patients in GUH?	Cllr M Kilcoyne	2
W84Q2567	Mental Health issues in Mayo	Cllr M Kilcoyne	3
W84Q2568	Risk assessment following an injury in Mayo General	Cllr M Kilcoyne	3-4
W84Q2569	Breakdown on attendance at ED in GUH	Cllr D Killilea	4
W84Q2570	Attendance at Westdoc in 2017/18/19	Cllr D Killilea	4-5
W84Q2571	Capital Projects for HSE West	Cllr D Killilea	5
W84Q2572	Cost of rodent control in Galway	Cllr D Killilea	6
W84Q2573	Funding for disability Services in Sligo/Leitrim	Cllr F Gurn	7
W84Q2574	Numbers on trolleys in Sligo University hospital	Cllr F Gurn	7
W84Q2575	Vacant properties in South West Donegal	Cllr T Conaghan	7
W84Q2576	Update on bus driver to Clifden Day Care Centre	Cllr D Ó Cualáin	8
W84Q2577	Update on Clifden Community Hospital	Cllr D Ó Cualáin	8
W84Q2578	Update on new Cardiothoracic Surgery ward	Cllr D Ó Cualáin	8
W84Q2579	Bed Capacity in Aras Mhic Dara CNU	Cllr D Ó Cualáin	8
W84Q2580	Funding allocated to IWA in 2018/2019	Cllr T Ward	8
W84Q2581	Funding that the HSE will provide for the new model care for IWA	Cllr T Ward	9
W84Q2582	Update on 50-bed at Sacred Heart Roscommon	Cllr T Ward	9
W84Q2583	Transport to day care services in SHH Roscommon	Cllr T Ward	9
W84Q2584	MRI Scans at Sligo Regional Hospital	Cllr D Gilroy	9-10
W84Q2585	Remedial Work at the Renal Dialysis Unit Sligo University Hospital	Cllr D Gilroy	10
W84Q2586	Sites for Primary Care Centre at Grange or Drumcliff	Cllr D Gilroy	10
W84Q2587	Limits on Search and Rescue Helicopters	Cllr D Gilroy	10
W84Q2588	Acquisition of site for new CNU in Carrick on Shannon	Cllr F Armstrong McGuire	10-11
W84Q2589	Plans to extend CNU in Ballinamore	Cllr F Armstrong McGuire	11
W84Q2590	When will the ambulance facilities in the Primary Care Centre in Ballymote	Cllr D Mulvey	11
W84Q2591	Full funding of costings applied by iCare and Blue Stack foundation	Cllr A Doherty	11
W84Q2592	Number of beds available and staff employed in Carndonagh CNU	Cllr A Doherty	11-12
W84Q2593	Hydrotherapy facilities in Milltown House Carndonagh	Cllr A Doherty	12
W84Q2594	Progress on access to Donagh Park	Cllr A Doherty	12
W84Q2595	Premises rented by HSE in Galway City and their purpose	Cllr D Bree	12-13
W84Q2596	Rent of former laundry premises in St Columba’s hospital Sligo	Cllr D Bree	13
W84Q2597	Properties rented to third parties in Sligo	Cllr D Bree	13
W84Q2598	Applications for Home Help/Home Care packages in Sligo	Cllr D Bree	13-14
W84Q2599	What is the delay in opening the dental unit in Lifford?	Cllr G Crawford	14
W84Q2600	What are the plans for St Joseph’s Stranorlar	Cllr G Crawford	14
W84Q2601	CNU Beds/daily beds in Letterkenny University Hospital	Cllr G Crawford	14-15
W84Q2602	Beds available in Letterkenny Mental Health Unit and ratio of staff	Cllr McMonagle	15

NUMBER	QUESTION	RAISED BY
W84Q2564	I request an update on the appointment of a Speech Therapist at St. Cecelia's School Sligo, following interviews which were held earlier this year.	Cllr D Mulvey
<p>Approval for temporary cover to provide a Speech and Language Therapy Service to St. Cecilia's school has been secured and a Senior Speech & Language Therapist commenced 31/10/19.</p> <p>I can confirm that she has made contact with the Principal of St. Cecilia's School and is due to commence there 07/11/19.</p> <p>Approval of the permanent post to be released, is awaited. This post has been escalated on the Priority List for Social Care.</p> <p>J. Hayes, Chief Officer, CHO1</p>		
W84Q2565	What is the maximum number of medical card patients that can be assigned to one GP and the maximum number of private patients that the same GP can have. What arrangements are in place when that number is exceeded? What is the maximum length of time a medical card patient should have to wait to get an appointment with their GP?	Cllr M Kilcoyne
<p>The maximum number of patients that can be assigned to a GP panel is 2000. This is increased if GP holds contract for Under 6 Universal care to 2,200.</p> <p>There is no limit on the number of private patients that a GP can have. That is a matter for each GP. When a GP reaches the maximum number of Medical Card patients, his/her panel is frozen and no further Medical Card patients are permitted to join that panel until it goes below the maximum number allowed. Patients wishing to join that panel then have to choose a different GP in the area. The length of time that a medical card patient has to wait to get an appointment with their GP varies depending on how busy the practice is. Some are in a position to give same day appointments while others are not. Provision is generally made in the appointments system to see emergencies as they arrive at the surgery.</p> <p>National Medical Card Unit</p>		
W84Q2566	What arrangements are in place in Galway University Hospital to facilitate cancer patients who need urgent treatment which is not available in the hospital they are in e.g. Mayo University Hospital which is not a Cancer centre of excellence? How many beds are available at GUH which is the centre of excellence for such an emergency and what is the maximum length of time a patient might have to wait?	Cllr M Kilcoyne
<p>Every effort is made to transfer patients in a timely way to GUH from other hospitals - both within and outside the Saolta Group.</p> <p>The timeframe for these transfers can vary widely – depending on the availability of beds on the specific ward and the number of patients that are admitted to the hospital but still on trolleys in ED.</p> <p>It can also depend on getting the patient onto a list for a particular procedure that can only be carried out at GUH.</p> <p>There are currently 25 beds each for Oncology and Haematology patients and 10 beds for in-patient Radiotherapy patients.</p> <p>Delays in getting patients can vary.</p> <p>If the patient is critically ill they are sometimes transferred straight to ICU or HDU.</p> <p>T. Canavan, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group</p>		

W84Q2567	What facilities are available in Mayo for an adult who is experiencing a severe mental health episode? What facilities are available in Mayo for a child or young person who is experiencing severe mental health episode? If this person presents at Mayo University Hospital who makes the decision to admit him or not to admit him? Why has a person to wait so long to see a consultant? Are there figures available for the number of persons who were not admitted and subsequently took their own life? Does any liability attach from a HSE point of view to a person who refuses to admit someone who subsequently takes their own life?	Cllr M Kilcoyne
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Facilities for an adult who is experiencing a severe mental health episode:
Adult Services i.e. 18 and over:

Response: An adult in Mayo who is mentally unwell and requires assessment by a specialist mental health team, can either;

(1) be referred by their GP to their Community Mental Health Team either in writing or by telephone, depending on the urgency and the nature of the problem. In addition the GP can speak with a member of the Mental Health Team and obtain advice and guidance, within the hours of 9-5 Monday – Friday.

or

(2) be referred or self-refer to ED, MUH at any time 24/7.

If referred to ED, MUH during office hours (Monday –Friday 9-5pm) the person will be seen by a member of the psychiatric liaison team who will carry out an assessment and provide a treatment plan in conjunction with the Consultant Psychiatrist on duty or their own Consultant if they are already a patient of the service. This may include admission if indicated. **There is no wait time** during the week for either a psychiatric assessment, once triaged and medically fit for same, or admission, unless there is high demand at the time and this is unpredictable but also unusual during the day, as there are 4 dedicated staff, two of whom are on duty at least, every day Monday- Friday in MUH. If a GP telephones in advance, a time can be provided to the patient and the person seen straight away, or if admission is required and the patient has been seen by the Community Mental Health Team, they can come straight to the Admission Unit without having to go to ED.

There are no waiting lists for patients to be seen by a Consultant Psychiatrist in Mayo in the Community. All patients are seen within 12 weeks as per national KPIs and most are seen within a month (these KPIs are submitted monthly by all teams and are open to scrutiny for all referrals.) If urgent, a patient is seen by the team within **24 or 48** hours Monday – Friday and if they cannot be accommodated by the team in the community, they are seen in ED out of hours and at weekends people can be referred to the ED for urgent assessment by the on call psychiatrist.

Children and adolescents (CAMHS) i.e. under 18 years.
Referrals to ED of minors in Mayo:
Monday –Friday 9-5am.
If a minor is referred to ED, the CAMHS teams have responsibility to see these patients during office hours in ED. After 5pm and at weekends, the duty Psychiatrist provides the assessment and treatment plan in conjunction with the CAMHS Consultant on duty for the Community Healthcare West Area. If admission is indicated the patient is admitted to a CAMHS in patient unit, the closest for Mayo being the CAMHS unit in Merlin Park Galway. If admission is not indicated, then a treatment plan for care in the community is agreed with family and follow up arrangements put in place.

Figures for people who attend and are not admitted and subsequently take their own life:
Adults: No one who requires admission is ever discharged because of lack of access to a bed.

M. Greaney, A/Chief Officer, Community Healthcare West

W84Q2568	An incident occurred in Mayo University Hospital on 26 th /27 th October 2019 when a patient received serious injuries having exited through a window to a flat roof and fallen approx. 35ft.What investigation has been carried out by the hospital in relation to this incident? What risk assessment has been carried out to prevent this re- occurring? Had this risk ever been brought to the attention of hospital management prior to this incident? What other	Cllr M Kilcoyne
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	action is proposed to be taken on the matter?													
<p>This incident is being investigated in line with normal processes within the hospital under the incident management framework.</p> <p>All elements of the incident will be explored and risk assessed accordingly.</p> <p>T. Canavan, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group</p>														
W84Q2569	Can HSE confirm the number of patients that have used A&E in GUH for the last 12 months and a breakdown of how many patients are medical card users, also the number of patients that were seen by a GP or Westdoc prior to going to A&E, and how many patients were charged a fee for using A&E, are medical card users charged for the use of A&E regardless of visiting a GP or Westdoc prior to using A&E. Is there any monies owed to the HSE for A&E and what is the amount over the last 12 months?	Clr D Killilea												
<p>The number of patients that have used Emergency Department in UHG for the last 12 months is 75,413 (71,230 new patients and 4183 review patients).Of that the number of patients who were medical card users is 21,324.</p> <p>The number of patients referred by a GP was 35,540 (patients with a referral letter -33,626, without a letter-504 and patients transferred from other hospitals with referral letters from other consultants - 1,410)</p> <p>The number of patients that were referred by West doc is included in the above having been referred with a GP referral letter.</p> <p>Medical card users are exempt from the ED Government Levy.</p> <p>Monies owed to the HSE for ED - the amount over the last 12 months; Charges raised year to date in ED were : € 1,192,000 Total Debt as at 31/10/19 : € 1,080,179 Debt 0-12mths : € 247,203.00</p>														
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<p>T. Canavan, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group</p>														
W84Q2570	Can HSE confirm the number of patients that used Westdoc on an annual basis (2017/2018/2019), is there a breakdown of Medical Card users, if so how many, and what was the income taken from patients that were non-medical card users, and how much of this was paid in cash. Are there any outstanding monies owed to Westdoc from the out of office service?	Clr D Killilea												

Westdoc management and directors meet with HSE management quarterly each year. A segment of that meeting is given to statistical analysis of all contacts with the service. The brief for Westdoc is to provide an out of hours service for eligible GMS patients which are medical cardholders and other eligible patients such as EU visitors.

Westdoc also provides an out of hour's service for non-eligible or private patients. This service is in the form of providing a triage service and access to a doctor if necessary. This service is necessary to ensure that all the patients of GP members are attended to during the out of hours period, otherwise, the GP would be off duty for medical card patients and on duty for private patients which defeats the purpose of the service and also ensures that all patients are adequately covered by a GP practice in any 24 hour period.

The contract between the doctor and the private patient is an individual contract for service and any fees that are charged by the doctor are a confidential matter between the doctor and the patient. Westdoc does ensure however that the doctor has professional indemnity insurance and possesses all the necessary qualifications and is fully registered.

Westdoc has no knowledge of how much is collected from private patients nor indeed the manner of payment.

November 1 st 2018 to October 31 st 2019				
Patients	Null	GMS	Private	Total
Total	811	57348	22466	80625

November 1 st 2017 to October 31 st 2018				
Patients	Null	GMS	Private	Total
Total	802	58125	22216	81143

Brian O'Keeffe, Chief Executive, Westdoc

W84Q2571	In the recent budget a number of capital projects were announced for HSE west area, could I get a breakdown of the number of projects funded in Galway City and County, what was the amount allocated and what is the amount needed to roll out the particular service that was granted the funding.	Clr D Killilea
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The HSE's proposed Capital Plan for 2020 is still in draft format. However, the following is a list of projects in Galway City and County that are currently in either design or construction and that will be progressed in 2020;

- Radiation Oncology Unit at UHG
- Emergency Dept & Women & Children's Block at UHG
- Upgrade of Medium Temperature Hot Water System at UHG – phased delivery
- Mortuary Refurbishment at UHG
- Blood Sciences Lab Project at UHG
- Theatres Development at Merlin Park
- Ward Block Project at Portiuncula Hospital, Ballinasloe
- City Ambulance Base at Merlin Park
- Tuam Community Mental Health Unit
- 2 Intellectual Disability Houses Ballinasloe
- Tuam Community Nursing Unit (CNU) – 50 Beds
- Merlin Park CNU – 60 Beds
- Clifden CNU – 50 beds

Additionally there are a number of potential new projects in Galway City and County which it is hoped can be progressed to design stage during 2020 subject to availability of funding such as the following;

- New Helipad at UHG
- Endoscopy Suite at UHG
- Fire Safety Works at Portiuncula Hospital, Ballinasloe
- Lift Upgrade Works at Portiuncula Hospital, Ballinasloe

Joe Hoare, Assistant National Director of Estates (West)

W84Q2572	Can the HSE confirm the amount of money it spends on contract rodent control in both the hospitals and community services in Galway, how many call outs there were for extra exterminations and how much this cost HSE in the Galway area.	Cllr D Killilea
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Response from PUH in relation to pest control:

2017	2018	2019 (to date)
€1350	€750	€1320

In addition to the routine pest control service there were also an additional 13 call outs - these were done free of charge as part of the contract.

The tables below outline the amount of money spent on contract rodent control in both the hospitals; UHG and MPUH (not including community services in Galway).

It should be noted that we do not have a way of separating rodent control from general pest control, as requested.

Pest Control for UHG				
		2017	2018	2019
Service Contract x 6 per year 03/01/17 - 02/01/20	Total: €	11734.20	11832.60	11832.60
Callouts	Total: €	664.10	3911.30	5656.07
Overall Total:	€	12398.30	15743.90	17488.67
Number of Callouts		2	4	7

Pest Control for Merlin Park				
		2017	2018	2019
Service Contract x 4 per year (€2,004.90 per QT)	Total: €	7650.60	8019.60	4009.80
Callouts	Total: €	992.40	221.40	0
Overall Total:	€	8643.00	8241.00	4009.80
Number of Callouts		1	1	0

T. Canavan, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group

The costs for Pest Control for Galway Community Healthcare West for:

2017 was €24,265 Contract plus 5 no "special callouts" total cost €516.60.

2018 was €22,408 Contract plus 4 no "Special callouts" total cost €393.60

2019 €22,932 Contract plus 2 no "special callouts" total cost €282.90.

M. Greaney, A/Chief Officer, Community Healthcare West

W84Q2573	What is the update on funding for Disability services in Sligo/ Leitrim where parents are getting older and more services need to be provided for their loved ones going forward that will need housing and special designed facility for Independent living in the communities and the backing of the HSE to provide services 24/7	Cllr F Gurn
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Each year the Disability Services in Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan prepare estimates of costs for the following year with a focus on our changing population and in line with the national programmes.

At end of Quarter 3, 2019, CHO1 was providing 713 residential placements, including external funded placements. Of the six nationally approved Emergency Residential Placements, commenced in CHO1 in 2019, there was only one placement funded in the Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan area.

The need for residential placements continues to exceed the number of placements and the funding available locally to provide same. Priority waiting lists are in operation and the provision of enhanced supports serves to maintain service users within their communities.

Disability Services representatives attend both the Sligo Council's Housing and Disability Steering Group and the Leitrim County Council's Housing and Disability Steering Group, alongside members of the County Council and Voluntary/Approved Housing Bodies. This forum provides the opportunity for planning in line with the Housing Strategy for People with Disabilities.

J. Hayes, Chief Officer, CHO1

W84Q2574	Update on people on trolleys in Sligo university hospital and are they been moved up to other floors in the hospital to keep the real numbers down.	Cllr F Gurn
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SUH has seen an increase in Emergency Department presentations year to date. There were 31,427 ED attendances up to the end of September this year which is compared to 29,038 attendances for the same period last year.

Of the total number of patients attending ED, the number requiring admission to hospital has also increased.

8,141 patients were admitted to SUH up to the end of September this year which compares to 7,181 for the same period last year.

The hospital's escalation plan is put in place when the demand for beds exceeds the capacity available in the hospital. In order to deal with the increased demand, measures have been put in place to help reduce the lengths of stay for patients in the ED and reduce the time patients spend waiting on trollies.

These include:

- Frailty Intervention Team in ED/AAU to provide more rapid assessments of frail patients by Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy and the Social Work multi-disciplinary team.
- Discharge Lounge is in place to help facilitate the earlier discharge of patients, freeing up beds earlier in the day for patients awaiting admission.
- Falls Collaborative project has started and improvements are anticipated in 2020 to help support monitoring of patients in their homes.

In addition, planned surgical activity is reviewed daily and may be cancelled depending on the high demands for additional beds in the hospital.

T. Canavan, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group

W84Q2575	What plans have the HSE in place for vacant properties in Southwest Donegal?	Cllr T Conaghan
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The HSE currently has a small number of vacant properties in Southwest Donegal. One property namely a former Health Centre at Teelin Road, Carrick is at sale agreed though discussions are currently ongoing with the proposed Purchaser. It is anticipated that two further properties namely no's 23 and 24 Claredon Drive, Donegal Town will be acquired by Donegal County Council. The Former Health Centre at Kilcar has recently become vacant. The future of this building is currently under review.

Joe Hoare, Assistant National Director of Estates (West)

W84Q2576	Can I receive an update in relation to when a driver will be appointed by the HSE to drive the mini bus that collects and drops off service users who attend the HSE run day care Centre in Clifden? This position has been vacant for over a year now and is impacting greatly on service users who are unable to attend the day care Centre, due to no means of travel. This is impacting service users in particularly rural and isolated parts of Roundstone, Ballyconneely and Cashel.	Cllr D Ó Cualáin
We expect normal service will resume by the end of the year.		
M. Greaney, A/Chief Officer, Community Healthcare West		
W84Q2577	What is the current position and status of Clifden Community Hospital and are services within the hospital being downgraded? Are the respite services that were being delivered within the hospital being impacted or scaled down?	Cllr D Ó Cualáin
A Design Team has been appointed to the capital project at Clifden. This project will involve the consolidation of services currently being provided at Clifden District Hospital and St. Anne's Community Nursing Unit (CNU) with the construction of a new amalgamated 50 Bed Unit on the grounds of St. Anne's CNU.		
The Design Team is currently progressing with drafting the design of the new unit with service input and will include provision for a 10 Bed Dementia Specific Unit as part of the 50 Bed complement in addition to the current Respite Bed complement of 2 beds. These 2 beds will be interchangeable as respite care and palliative care beds. 30 of the remaining beds are planned to be designated to post Acute step down. All of the rooms in the new unit will be single bedded en suite rooms.		
We are aiming to submit the planning application in Quarter 1, 2020.		
M. Greaney, A/Chief Officer, Community Healthcare West		
W84Q2578	Can I get an update on the status of the relocation and completion date of the new ward for Cardiothoracic surgery in GUH. It is my understanding that the current ward is to be relocated within the hospital. What is the expected completion date of this relocation and is funding available to accommodate these works?	Cllr D Ó Cualáin
There has been a delay with this project due to space constraints in the hospital and a solution is emerging and being worked out to free up the space for this project to progress.		
T. Canavan, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group		
W84Q2579	What is the bed capacity in Aras Mhic Dara Community Nursing Unit Carraroe? Are all these beds open and being used? If not why not? Are all respite beds open and being used. How many people are awaiting admission to a long term care bed in the unit at present?	Cllr D Ó Cualáin
Aras Mhic Dara provides care to 34 residents, 2 of which avail of respite services.		
All respite facilities are open. Maximum physical capacity is 47 beds, but have been unable to recruit Nursing staff in this area to open additional beds. There is a waiting list for Services of patients who expressed an interest in a Long Term Care Bed however the waiting list is only validated when a bed becomes available in most cases applicants have taken beds in other facilities. We are aspiring to open beds to full capacity subject to HIQA approval, if we are able to recruit the required number of nurses which has not been possible for a number of years. Currently the HIQA registration for Aras Mhic Dara is for a maximum of 34 patients.		
M. Greaney, A/Chief Officer, Community Healthcare West		
W84Q2580	Can the HSE Executive inform members of the Forum the amount of funding they have provided to the Irish Wheelchair Association in 2018/19 for the Cuisle Accessible Holiday Resort in Donamon for the service users.	Cllr T Ward
HSE Community Healthcare West provided €624,746 in funding in 2018 to the Irish Wheelchair Association for the Cuisle Accessible Holiday Resort in Donamon, Co. Roscommon and a further €625,631 in funding for the Cuisle Resort in 2019.		
M. Greaney, A/Chief Officer, Community Healthcare West		

W84Q2581	Can the HSE Executive inform members of the Forum the amount of funding that the HSE will provide to the Irish Wheel Association in 2020 for the new model of care for service users which I understand is the Hotel model.	Cllr T Ward
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HSE Community Healthcare West is not aware at this point in time of any decision with regard to its funding allocation for 2020 including its allocation for Section 39 voluntary organisations like the Irish Wheelchair Association (IWA) whom it supports through financial assistance for delivering services to people with disabilities.

The IWA will be transitioning their current holiday/respite model located at Cuisle, Donamon in order to provide a wider range of choice to people with disabilities seeking accessible respite/holiday break experiences as part of its reform programme. It is of critical importance, from the HSE's perspective, that supports are provided to a high standard and are accessible in terms of meeting the needs of people with disabilities. The HSE is assured of service continuity provided by the IWA as part of its planned and funded provision.

M. Greaney, A/Chief Officer, Community Healthcare West

W84Q2582	Can the HSE Executive inform members of the Forum what is the update on the propose 50-bed room unit at the Sacred Heart Hospital Roscommon.	Cllr T Ward
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The HSE's Capital Programme includes the construction of a new 50 bed extension on the site of the Sacred Heart Hospital in Roscommon and associated works to address HIQA standards for residential care facilities. It remains the intention to seek tenders for the appointment of a design team for this project before the end of 2019. New national frameworks are currently being put in place by the HSE for design services for such projects. The evaluation processes have been completed for the various disciplines and it is envisaged that these frameworks will be ready for use by mid December 2019. Once these frameworks are in place, tenders will be sought from the frameworks for the design team for the project at the Sacred Heart Hospital Roscommon.

Joe Hoare, Assistant National Director of Estates (West)

W84Q2583	Can the HSE Executive inform members of the Forum if the HSE are carrying out a review of their day care service at the Sacred Heart Hospital Roscommon. I have been inform that one mini bus is to be with drawing for a period of time.	Cllr T Ward
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Given the shortage of staff currently being experienced by the Sacred Heart Hospital and the fact that the clients can be transported via the Mini Bus service a decision was taken to use the Mini Bus only for the next three weeks.

The Mini Bus driver and Health Care Assistant who accompanies the driver now start their shift at 8.00am rather than 8.30am. This results in the Mini Bus being able to collect all clients on time for the start of Day Care with no delays to the service. The situation will be reviewed again after this three weeks trial run where only the Mini Bus is used to transport clients to Day Care.

M. Greaney, A/Chief Officer, Community Healthcare West

W84Q2584	Can the HSE update on what procedures are in place for dealing with appointments for MRI Scans at Sligo University Hospital, what is the expected time delay for an appointment and what charges are applied for each of the following category of patient(a) Public Patients with a Medical Card (b) Public Patients without a Medical Card and (c)Private Patients	Cllr D Gilroy
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All MRI referrals received are reviewed and prioritised by a Consultant Radiologist.

Public Patients with a Medical Card

Public Patient wait time

Routine: 10 months

Urgent: 1 week

Inpatients: 1-2 days

Public Patient Charges - No charge is applied to patients for Public Appointments (regardless of Medical card or otherwise.)

Public Patients without a Medical Card

As above

Private Patients

- Private Patient wait time: within 2 weeks
- Private Patient Pricing (see below)

The charges range from €245 to €925 depending on the complexity of the Scan.

T. Canavan, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group

W84Q2585	Can the HSE Update on when the necessary remedial work at the Renal Dialysis Unit Sligo University Hospital will be carried out such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repair of broken bed ends in dialysis unit. • The purchase of new beds for dialysis unit. • Provision of Automatic doors throughout the renal dialysis unit so as to make it user friendly for wheelchair and physically challenged users. • New Curtains for the Unit which are urgently needed. • New Blinds for the Unit • Painting of the entire Renal Dialysis Unit. • Appropriate hand washing clean sink in a clean utility room. • Replacement of the floor covering in the unit. • The provision of Portacabin for the storage of machines currently being held in the disinfection bay 	Cllr D Gilroy
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Management at Sligo University Hospital working to address equipment and environmental issues in the Renal Unit. Some maintenance work has already been undertaken and management are working with the maintenance department with a view to carrying out other approved works in the Unit.

T. Canavan, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group

W84Q2586	Can the HSE Provide an Update on the purchase of the two sites for the Primary Care Centre at Grange Co Sligo and the Satellite Centre at Drumcliff, Co. Sligo	Cllr D Gilroy
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The purchase of the proposed site for the Primary Care Centre at Grange Co Sligo is currently being finalised. It is hoped to conclude the legal process shortly. The design team are currently finalising the Stage 2b report and preparing the documents for the first stage of the restricted tender process (Suitability Assessment and contractor shortlisting). The Drumcliff project is at a similar stage. The purchase of the proposed site for this new facility is also currently at legal stage.

Joe Hoare, Assistant National Director of Estates (West)

W84Q2587	Can the HSE Confirm what limits are currently in place on the use of Search and Rescue Helicopters for transfer of Patients between hospitals in emergency situations after 11:00PM and if Helicopter transfers are not approved if the Helicopter cannot be back at base before 11:00PM each night.	Cllr D Gilroy
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The limits are placed on their aircraft by the IAA. The limitations form part of the commercial air traffic regulations.

However, currently we, the NAS, can task the Irish Rescue Coast Guard helicopters up to 21.00hrs for inter hospital missions nationally. The aircraft tasked must return to an IRCG base by 23.00hrs. There is no inter hospital helicopter service post the 21.00hrs tasking deadline.

There is no restriction on the Search and Rescue service.

P. O'Riordan, Chief Ambulance Officer, National Ambulance Service

W84Q2588	Can I have an update on the progress of the acquisition of a site for the new community hospital to replace St Patricks Hospital in Carrick on Shannon?	Cllr F Armstrong McGuire
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The HSE is currently going through the contract process for securing the site and are awaiting finalisation of pre-contract enquires in relation to same. A site survey has been carried out and the HSE are in the process of preparing a planning application. Procurement of the site is subject to the HSE being able to secure the relevant Planning Permission.

J. Hayes, Chief Officer, CHO1

W84Q2589	What plans are in place to extend the Community Hospital in Ballinamore to accommodate more patients?	Cllr F Armstrong McGuire
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There are currently no plans to extend the Community Hospital in Ballinamore.

If additional funding was to become available it would be used to open Day Services in the Ballinamore Unit beginning one day per week.

J. Hayes, Chief Officer, CHO1

W84Q2590	I call on the HSE for an update on when the ambulance facilities (parking bays) which are in place, will come into operation from the new Primary Health Care facility Ballymote to service South, East and West Sligo i.e. from Ballyfarnon to Enniscrone, from Aclare to Kilarett to Charlestown. Ballymote is centrally located for urgent ambulance call outs and would take up to 30 mins off response times from the existing service from Sligo University Hospital.	Cllr D Mulvey
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The National Ambulance Service works with Estates when they are developing Primary care Centres to ensure that at appropriate locations a Deployment Point is included that can be utilised by the NAS.

This is to ensure looking into the future we can utilise resources to these deployment points. However this will be dependent in some locations for additional Service developments or optimising existing resources.

At present while the Deployment Point in Ballymote is completed the present resourcing in the area does not immediately allow for deployment by existing crews. The fact that we now have a deployment point will allow us to ensure that when additional resources become available then we have a ready made location to utilise.

P. O'Riordan, Chief Ambulance Officer, National Ambulance Service

W84Q2591	Will the HSE commit to full funding of costings applied for by iCare and Blue Stack special needs foundation in 2020?	Cllr A Doherty
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The HSE has approved core annual funding of €36,000 respectively to the Bluestack Special Needs Foundation, Donegal Town and i.C.A.R.E., Bunrana.

A further submission for funding of €86,500 for the Bluestack Foundation and €41,000 for i.C.A.R.E. in the 2020 estimates has been made and will be considered in the context of available resources and priorities next year.

J. Hayes, Chief Officer, CHO1

W84Q2592	Will the HSE confirm in tabular form the number of beds available and the number of nursing staff employed in Carndonagh Community Hospital and Bunrana Community Hospital for the years 1999 to 2019?	Cllr A Doherty
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Please see attached the available data in tabular form for Bunrana Community Hospital and Carndonagh Community Hospital.

		1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
BCH	No of Beds						30	30	30	30	36
	Nursing WTE									13.92	15.28
CCH	No of Beds						39	39	39	39	55
	Nursing WTE									31.79	32.37

		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
BCH	No of Beds	36	36	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
	Nursing WTE	12.99	11.67	12.05	13.62	13.8	12.17	13.39	13.93	14.33	12.61	11.36
CCH	No of Beds	55	55	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46
	Nursing WTE	30.18	31.93	31.93	28.01	28.48	25.37	24.73	24.16	25.17	25.37	25.08

J. Hayes, Chief Officer, CHO1

W84Q2593	What is envisaged and planned for Milltown House, Carndonagh following the agreement reached by HSE with the friends of JCM and will the HSE prioritise the restoration, use and access to hydrotherapy facilities at Milltown?	Cllr A Doherty
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I can advise that discussions are on-going between the HSE's Solicitor and the legal representative of the Friends of JCM regarding this matter.

J. Hayes, Chief Officer, CHO1

W84Q2594	How many meetings, contacts, engagements have occurred between the HSE and Donegal County Council since the formal taking in Charge of Donagh Park by the council and the commitment by the council to restore and take in charge the bridge leading to JCM Carndonagh. Has the joint commitment and resolve of the Council and the HSE to restore access progressed and is a programme and time agreed to complete the required works?	Cllr A Doherty
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A meeting is in the process of being arranged between Donegal County Council and HSE Property Management. The HSE is currently awaiting confirmation from Donegal County Council regarding dates.

J. Hayes, Chief Officer, CHO1

W84Q2595	I ask that the Forum be provided with up to date details including the identity of each property rented by the HSE in Galway City, the purpose for which each property is used by the HSE, the annual rent paid for each property, the lessor of each property; the rent paid per square foot, and the date on which the original rental agreement was entered into in respect of each property.	Cllr D Bree
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The relevant details for the properties rented by the HSE in Galway City are as follows;

Site Name	Category	Address 1	Address 2	Landlord Name	Commencement Date	Rental Amount p.a.	Floor Area (Sq Ft)	Rent Paid Per Sq Ft
Ely Place 10	Primary Care	10 Ely Place	Sea Road	Bridget & Tony Hopkins	01/02/2004	€31,700	3,106	€10.21
La Nua Primary Care and Mental Health	Primary Care & Mental Health	La Nua	Ballybane	Arduin Ltd Gladden Ltd, Celebrant Ltd, Folca Ltd	01/04/2005	€205,000	12,630	€16.23
Dominick Street 64 - (Drugs Services)	Primary Care	64 Dominick Street		Patrick Creed	23/11/2001	€35,000	1,500	€23.33
Fionntarlann House (Unit 15)	Hospital	Unit 15, Fionntarlann House	Westside	Fionntarlann CLG	01/06/2003	€6,500	650	€10.00
Briarhill Business Park, Unit 17	Primary Care & HBS	Unit 17, Briarhill Business Park	Briarhill	Brian Silke	01/10/2001	€38,025	8,500	€4.47
Westside - Ballard House	Mental Health	Ballard House	Bothar Le Cheile, Westside	Posetano Investments LLC	01/03/2002	€114,000	10,694	€10.66
City East Primary Care Centre	Primary Care	City East Primary Care Centre	Doughiska	Empor Investments Limited	01/07/2011	€246,560	15,058	€16.37

Sybernet Building	Environmental Health	Sybernet Building	IDA Business Park, Dangan	Hightree Properties Limited	16/07/2013	€78,500	4,615	€17.01
Geata An Eolais	Hospital	Geata An Eolais	21 University Road	Welcastle Property Ltd	01/12/2016	€84,000	5,705	€14.72
Sherwood House	Mental Health	Sherwood House	2-3, Sherwood Avenue, Taylors Hill	Fred J Hanley & Co. Ltd	16/04/2019	€160,000	8,800	€18.18

The above rates are VAT exclusive. VAT is chargeable in the case of two of the above properties namely the City East Primary Care Centre and Geata An Eolais.

Joe Hoare, Assistant National Director of Estates (West)

W84Q2596	That the Forum be provided with a report regarding the rental of the former laundry premises in St Columba's Hospital Sligo, the report to include the date on which the HSE commenced renting the premises, and the total amount of rent paid to the landlord to date.	Cllr D Bree
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I understand that the North Western Health Board commenced renting the Laundry premises at St Columba's Hospital Sligo on the 1st of April 1992 and the HSE continues to rent this premises up to the current date. The premises has a total floor area of circa 11,000 sq ft. To date a total of €914,640.40 has been paid in rental charges. The current landlords are Belbulben Court, Clarion Road, Sligo.

Joe Hoare, Assistant National Director of Estates (West)

W84Q2597	That the Forum be provided with a list of properties which the HSE is (i) renting to third parties in Sligo, including the names of the companies/individuals who are renting the properties and the details of the rent received by the HSE for each property; (ii) providing free of charge to third parties in Sligo, including the names of the companies/individuals who are being provided with the property.	Cllr D Bree
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There are only a very small number of properties which the HSE are renting to third parties in Sligo. The relevant details are as follows;

Name & address of property	Description of property	Purpose for which property is used	Annual Rent	Lessee	Comments
Bunowna, Easkey, Co Sligo	4 bedroom bungalow	Residential accommodation for Learning disability clients	€100.00 per annum	PRAXIS Care, unit 11B, Beulah Buildings, Sligo	Part of Service Level agreement
Ballytivian Hostel, Ballytivina, Sligo	Bungalow type accommodation. Gross internal area 180 sq mt on site of 0.17 hectares	Hostel to provide accommodation for homeless persons	€100.00 per annum	Sligo Social Services, Charles Street, Sligo	Part of Service Level agreement
Garden Centre, Ballytivian, Sligo	Garden Centre and associated office/training areas	Training for Mental Health Service Clients	€100.00 per annum	Sligo Leader Development Company, Pearse Road, Sligo	Part of Service Level agreement

Joe Hoare, Assistant National Director of Estates (West)

W84Q2598	How many applicants in county Sligo have been approved in the current year for Home Help/ Home Support Service? How many applicants are on the Waiting List? What is the average length of time an applicant has to wait to receive the package once they are approved? What is the longest length of time an applicant has been obliged to wait this year from when the application was approved, to get the package? What period of time does it	Cllr D Bree
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	take the HSE to assess and approve an application for the Home Care/Home help package.	
<p>419 applications have been approved, as of 11/11/2019. There are 142 applicants on the waiting list, as of 11/11/2019.</p> <p>Once an application is approved for service and funding is available, the service is put in place by the Home Support Co-ordinator, on average between twenty four and forty eight hours. This is dependent on staff being available to provide the service.</p> <p>Ten months is the longest length of time an applicant has been obliged to wait this year from when the application was approved, to get the package.</p> <p>It is not possible to give a definitive period of time that it takes the HSE to assess and approve an application for Home Support, as the time to complete the following process outlined can vary with each application.</p> <p>The process for making an application for home support is as follows: The National Application form for Home Support can be downloaded from the internet or requested from the local Home Support Office. On request, this is sent to the individual making the application for Home Support. The application is completed by the person applying for the service or their carer and returned to the local Home Support Office.</p> <p>On receipt of a completed application form, the Home Support Co-Ordinator informs the public health nurse that a Home Support application has been received and consent has been given to complete an assessment for Home Support.</p> <p>The Public Health Nurse assesses all applications for Home Support using the Common Summary Assessment Report (CSAR). The length of time it takes to complete is dependent on the assessed needs of the individual and the work plan.</p> <p>The completed CSAR is accompanied by a schedule of care, which is required to meet the individual's identified need and also takes into consideration the resources available to the individual e.g. family support etc. The application is then reviewed at the Senior Managers Home Support Governance meeting, which takes place on a Wednesday each week. It is chaired by the Older Persons Service Manager and has MDT membership including Asst / Director of Public Health Nursing, Older Persons Occupational Therapy Manager, Hospital Discharge Liaison Officer, Principal Social Worker Adult Services. Decisions are made regarding the allocation of service, dependent on available funding. The Senior Managers Home Support Governance Group will make a decision on all completed applications reviewed at the Governance meeting weekly.</p> <p><i>J. Hayes, Chief Officer, CHO1</i></p>		
W84Q2599	What is the delay in having the dental Unit in Lifford reopened?	Cllr G Crawford
<p>The contractors commenced work on the Lifford Dental Clinic, on Thursday 14th November, and it is anticipated that the necessary works will be completed by mid-December.</p> <p><i>J. Hayes, Chief Officer, CHO1</i></p>		
W84Q2600	Can the plans put forward to the dept. for funding in relation to St Joseph's Stranorlar be detailed?	Cllr G Crawford
<p>The HSE is awaiting funding from the Department of Health to go to the design stage of this project. The initial draft plans were from the feasibility report completed in 2017.</p> <p><i>J. Hayes, Chief Officer, CHO1</i></p>		
W84Q2601	How connected does the HSE see in the reduction in community hospital bed availability in relation to the daily numbers awaiting Beds in UHLKY	Cllr G Crawford
<p>There are currently 25 community hospital beds unavailable in Co Donegal due to staff levels. However, the management of delayed discharges in acute services is not dependent on one factor only, but requires a multi-faceted approach, including:</p>		

- The availability of Home Care Packages
- The availability of community hospital beds, and
- The availability of Transitional Care funding

Both CHO 1 and Letterkenny University Hospital work closely on a daily basis to ensure delayed discharges are kept to a minimum and this will continue to be our highest priority in terms of both services.

J. Hayes, Chief Officer, CHO1

W84Q2602	How many beds have we available at the Letterkenny Mental Health Unit for patients and what is the ratio of Staff versus patients and how many staff vacancies are outstanding.	Cllr G McMonagle
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The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The Unit has 34 beds and is staffed by a compliment of 46 whole time equivalents (W.T.E) over a 24/7 basis. The staff levels on the floor are 12 staff on a day shift and 6 staff on a night shift. In some cases dependent on clinical assessment additional nursing staff are required to mitigate risk for the patient.

The vacancies currently stand at 20, however, all these vacant posts have been replaced as temporary appointments until the recruitment process for the permanent posts are complete. Therefore all posts are filled within the Approved Centre at this time. In addition there are also 4 Health and Social Care Professionals dedicated to the service.

J. Hayes, Chief Officer, CHO1