

**Minutes of Regional Health Forum West Annual General Meeting held on
Tuesday, 25th June, 2019 at 2.00pm in Room 1, Education Centre,
HSE Offices, Merlin Park, Galway.**

Miontuairiscí Cruinnithe Chinn Bhliana an Fhóraitm Réigiúnach Sláinte, a tionóladh ar an 25th Meitheamh,
2018 ag 2.00 .i.n, i Seomra 1 an tIonad Oideachais,
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte, Páirc Mheirlinne, Gaillimh

Outgoing Chairperson: Cllr Rosaleen O’Grady

Elected Chairperson: Cllr John Carroll

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

In attendance:

Ann Cosgrove, Chief Operating Officer, Saolta University Health Care Group
Colette Cowan, Chief Executive Officer, UL Hospital Group
Tony Canavan, Executive Lead, Regional Health Forum/CHO, Community Healthcare West
Geraldine Mullarkey, Services Manager, Older Persons Services Sligo, CHO Area 1
Paudie O’Riordan, Chief Ambulance Officer, National Ambulance Service
Norah Owens, Regional Health Forum Office
Anna Lyons, Regional Health Forum Office

700/82/19 Nominations for Chairperson of Regional Health Forum

Cllr Donagh Killilea nominated Cllr John Carroll who was seconded by Cllr Blackie G .Gavin.
Cllr John Carroll was unopposed and deemed elected as the Chairperson of the Regional Health Forum.

701/82/19 Nominations for Vice Chairperson of Regional Health Forum

Cllr Albert Doherty nominated Cllr Gerry McMonagle and he was seconded by Cllr Gerry Crawford. Cllr McMonagle was also elected unopposed.

702/82/19 Nominations for Chairperson of Regional Health Forum Committee

Cllr Dongah Killilea nominated Cllr Tony Ward and he was seconded by Cllr Blackie G.Gavin. Cllr. Ward was elected unopposed.

703/72/19 Nominations for Vice Chair of Regional Health Forum Committee

Cllr Donagh Killilea nominated Cllr Declan McDonnell and he was seconded by Cllr. Blackie G. Gavin. Cllr. McDonnell elected unopposed as Vice Chair of the Regional Health Forum Committee.

The newly elected Chairpersons and Vice-chairpersons took the opportunity to thank those who nominated and seconded them and were all congratulated by the members.

The meeting was adjourned for 10 minutes to facilitate the taking of official photographs of the Chairpersons and Vice Chairpersons of both the Forum and the Committee.

Mr. Tony Canavan, on behalf of the Executive welcomed Cllr John Carroll as the new Chairperson and he continued to conduct the meeting.

704/82/19 – Minutes of previous meeting 14th May, 2019

The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 22nd May, 2019 were proposed by Cllr Tony Ward and seconded by Cllr Donagh Killilea.

705/82/19 Matters Arising:

Cllr Declan McDonnell requested the response given to question W81Q2455 to Cllr T O’Flaherty be copied to both Cllr Noel Larkin and himself regarding Mervue Health Centre.

Action: RHF office to issue this response to both councillors

Cllr Donagh Killilea referred to the previous meetings discussion regarding Sherwood House (there was no follow up on this topic from the meeting of 14th May 2019). Tony Canavan noted that there is no connection between the Mental Health Services and Sexual Offenders services, none of these services will be provided at the new Community Mental Health Team base. The location is temporary until a new Primary Care Centre is completed on the West side of Galway City.

Cllr Tony Ward requested that Tony Canavan keep the Roscommon Regional Health Forum Members updated on the Rosalia Unit or any changes to its use.

Action: Mr. Tony Canavan agreed to keep the Roscommon members updated.

706/82/19

Mr. Tony Canavan, Executive Lead, Regional Health Forum gave a welcoming address to the new Regional Health Forum.

707/82/19 Chairman's Address:

Apologies were noted from Cllr Cillian Murphy, Cllr Tom Conaghan, Cllr Róisín Garvey, Cllr Dara Mulvey and Cllr Ciaran Brogan.

Vote of Sympathy

Condolences were expressed to the family of Donegal Councillor Manus Kelly who passed away following a tragic incident at the weekend.

A minutes silence was observed.

708/82/19 Questions:

W82Q2475 - Radiology Department at Our Lady's Hospital Manorhamilton.

Action: A Cosgrove to revert to Cllr F Gurn with an update on the equipment at the Radiology Department.

W82Q2481 – Recruitment of replacement Podiatrist at LUH for Diabetic Clinics.

Action: A Cosgrove to revert to Cllr Kevin Sheahan with the date the Podiatrist Post at LUH was approved.

W82Q2483 – Storage of Patient Medical Files in Letterkenny locations.

Action: A Cosgrove to revert to Cllr Gerry McMonagle to confirm if the theft of medical files at a Letterkenny location were reported to the Gardai.

W82Q2485 – Response was not available at time of printing.

Action: Regional Health Forum office to forward response to Cllr Doherty as soon as available.

W82Q2486 –Works at Carndonagh Community Hospital.

Action: John Hayes to update Cllr Doherty as to why it was pushed out another 3 months.

W82Q2489 – Additional Staff for the ED at LUH

Action: A Cosgrove to revert to Cllr G Crawford with a proposed timeframe on the filling of these posts.

W82Q2504 Ambulance Service in Connemara

Action: P. O'Riordan agreed to meet with Cllr D Ó Cualáin to discuss this.

W82Q2507 – Toghermore House – Point of clarification and note for the minutes:

Cllr D Killilea informed the meeting that Toghermore House was gifted to the HSE from the Burke family on condition it would revert to Galway County Council if and when the HSE ceased their services there.

Tony Canavan advised that the future uses for Toghermore House will be reviewed. The residents are moving to new accommodation and the HSE are in the process of looking at what Health Services could be located there to support the local community.

W82Q2508 – Upgrade of Maternity Section UHG.

Cllr D Killilea suggested the Early Pregnancy Unit should be located in a more discreet location within Maternity.

Action: Ann Cosgrove to give this feedback to the management as part of the new design proposals

709/82/19 Motions:

W82M94: Medical Cards - This Health Forum calls on the Minister to review and increase the income limit guidelines appropriately without further delay.

This motion was proposed by Cllr Declan Bree, seconded by Cllr Tony Ward.

Action: RHF Office to forward this Motion to the Department of Health with a note to advise that a similar Motion W79M89 (Regional Health Forum Meeting 26th February 2019), has already been forwarded for the attention of the Minister for Health.

W82M95: Provision of services at Milltown House Carndonagh.

This Motion was proposed by Cllr Albert Doherty and seconded by Cllr Gerry McMonagle.

The motion was unanimously carried by the Members

Action: Motion to be forwarded to J Hayes.

710/82/19 – Any Other Business:

Cllr D Bree asked the Managers present regarding the effect the strike due to go ahead on Wednesday 26th June 2019 would affect services.

Ann Cosgrove and Colette Cowan gave a summary of preparations underway.

Cllr D Bree thanked them for responses but wished to note that the Government and Minister for Health are responsible for this situation.

711/82/19 Date & Time of Next Meeting:

The next **Regional Health Forum** meeting will take place on Tuesday, 24th September, 2019 at 2pm in Galway.

The next **Regional Health Forum Committee** meeting will take place on Tuesday, 22nd October, 2019 at 2pm in Manorhamilton.

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 – 24th SEPTEMBER 2019

NUMBER	QUESTION	RAISED BY	PAGE No.
W83Q2512	Update on the refurbishment of the Sacred Heart Hospital in Roscommon and the building of new 50 bedded unit.	Cllr T Ward	4
W83Q2513	Roscommon Home Care Packages and Home Help Hours 2017, 2018, and 2019?	Cllr T Ward	4
W83Q2514	Future plans health facilities and staff at the Rosalie unit in Castlerea.	Cllr T Ward	4
W83Q2515	Paediatric waiting list for occupational therapy in South Roscommon and the rest of Co. Roscommon?	Cllr T Ward	4-5
W83Q2516	General Nurse Interns Galway and Mayo, final year numbers 2019, employment offers and uptake.	Cllr D Killilea	5
W83Q2517	Update on HSE directly employed RGN's in Galway and Mayo that have retired, resigned and employments terminated in 2019 and the number of nursing agency staff	Cllr D Killilea	5
W83Q2518	Update on Residential Care Unit in Tuam, preplanning meeting, award of design and planning, cost.	Cllr D Killilea	5-6
W83Q2519	Up to date position re Toghermore House and Grove site in Tuam.	Cllr D Killilea	6
W83Q2520	Update on the provision of a new Primary Care Centre in Tubbercurry Co Sligo.	Cllr D Mulvey	6
W83Q2521	Signage around Ballymote re primary care Centre at Earls Field, Ballymote.	Cllr D Mulvey	6
W83Q2522	Limerick Diabetic Clinic and staffing.	Cllr S Hartigan	6-7
W83Q2523	No deal Brexit protections for shared Services along the Border.	Cllr G Crawford	7
W83Q2524	How many positions sought for Area 1 are awaiting Departmental approval?	Cllr G Crawford	8
W83Q2525	Cost in existence for 2017,2018 re non returnable aids and appliances?	Cllr G Crawford	8
W83Q2526	Update on Community Hospital Network for Donegal.	Cllr C Brogan	8
W83Q2527	Update on the rebuilding programme at LGH.	Cllr C Brogan	8
W83Q2528	Updated report on the services being provided at Ballymacool Respite Centre.	Cllr C Brogan	8-9
W83Q2529	Updated report on vacancies in each department in LGH, how many areas are affected by the current recruitment embargo?	Cllr C Brogan	9
W83Q2530	Radiology Service in Our Lady's Hospital and lack of new Radiographer.	Cllr F Gurn	9
W83Q2531	Increase in wait-time for X-Ray services in SUH, due to staff shortages. Is the HSE freeze on staff the cause of this waiting time?	Cllr F Gurn	9
W83Q2532	Physiotherapy Service for Aras Breffni patients not available at Our Lady's Hospital.	Cllr F Gurn	9-10
W83Q2533	Update on the tender for works at Carndonagh Community Hospital, when will contractors commence works on site?	Cllr A Doherty	10
W83Q2534	Update on progress between HSE and Milltown House, and the Hydrotherapy facility.	Cllr A Doherty	10
W83Q2535	Update on Dunshenny House, Carndonagh.	Cllr A Doherty	10
W83Q2536	Robotic Surgery list (Prostrate Cancer): additional theatre time access, allocation and increased resources required for NW clients.	Cllr A Doherty	10

W83Q2537	Staff posts in each category currently vacant at MUH? Number of 2019 nurse graduates offered permanent and temporary positions at MUH?	ClIr M Kilcoyne	11
W83Q2538	The length of time patients in MUH have to wait to see a consultant and what is the length of time until their procedures are carried out?	ClIr M Kilcoyne	11
W83Q2539	Update on wait times for home help in Mayo? how many have been approved not yet assessed? How many people are receiving home help of 8 hours, 8-15 hours and + 15 hours per week?	ClIr M Kilcoyne	11-12
W83Q2540	Update on the current status of the plans to develop a new ED at UHG?	ClIr J Connolly	12
W83Q2541	Update on the current status to develop new oncology facilities at UHG?	ClIr J Connolly	12
W83Q2542	Confirmation if patients referred to UHG for oncology care have had to receive treatment at other designated centres?	ClIr J Connolly	12
W83Q2543	What are the determinants of the full capacity protocol at UHG and can the forum obtain the dates to date in 2019 where the Full Capacity Protocol was invoked at UHG?	ClIr J Connolly	12-13
W83Q2544	What is the specific timeline for the completion of the new 46 bed building at Sligo University Hospital?	ClIr F Armstrong McGuire	13
W83Q2545	Is there a Moratorium in place with regard nursing recruitment in HSE West?	ClIr F Armstrong McGuire	13
W83Q2546	What is the current status of the planned Cath Lab at Sligo Hospital?	ClIr F Armstrong McGuire	13
W83Q2547	When will the recruitment process commence to replace the retiring cardiologist at Sligo University Hospital?	ClIr F Armstrong McGuire	13
W83Q2548	Update on how many calls has the Westdoc service received in 2019 and breakdown of what types of calls?	ClIr D Ó Cualáin	13
W83Q2549	Update on plans to develop more Primary Care Centres in the Connemara?	ClIr D Ó Cualáin	14
W83Q2550	What plans are in place to deal with the expected higher demand on staff and over the coming winter months?	ClIr D Ó Cualáin	14
W83Q2551	Update on the PHN in areas of Connemara? Clarification if the service being provided is by PHN's or Community nurses?	ClIr D Ó Cualáin	14
W83Q2552	Update on HSE Capital Plan and if it includes a new elective hospital for Merlin Park and the timescales for delivery of the actual items announced and cost of same?	ClIr D McDonnell	14
W83Q2553	Update on vacancies, retirements and upcoming retirements in both the Saolta and CHO Area 2?	ClIr D McDonnell	15
W83Q2554	How many beds in UHG and Merlin Park Hospital were closed in August 2019?	ClIr D McDonnell	15
W83Q2555	Update on the flooding report for LUH?	ClIr G McMonagle	15
W83Q2556	How many positions at LUH remain vacant due embargo and what services do they affect?	ClIr G McMonagle	15
W83Q2557	What is the lifespan of the current MRI Scanners at LUH and plans to replace them?	ClIr G McMonagle	15
W83Q2558	Can the HSE confirm that in a scenario of a "No Deal Brexit" that the health services currently being accessed on a Cross Border basis by Patients will still be readily available after a No Deal Brexit?	ClIr G McMonagle	15-16
W83Q2559	Have the HSE West had any discussions with Hospice Management with a view to identifying an alternative new site for the hospice in the intervening period following the overturn of planning permission	ClIr L Carroll	16

W83Q2560	Does the HSE West have any plans to increase the number of security staff especially at UHG to prevent/ combat the serious incidences of attacks and assaults on staff?	Cllr L Carroll	16-17
W83Q2561	Update on car parking facilities at the rear of the University Hospital Roscommon.	Cllr T Crosby	17
W83Q2562	Update on measures being taken by the HSE to reduce waiting time for Orthodontic Treatment?	Cllr T Crosby	17
W83Q2563	How many patients were left on trolleys in the University Hospital Limerick during the months of July & August 2019.	Cllr B Chambers	17-18

NUMBER	QUESTION	RAISED BY								
W83Q2512	Can the HSE Executive provide an update on the timeframe for the refurbishment of the Sacred Heart Hospital in Roscommon, has the HSE appointed a Design Team to look after the building of new 50 bedded Residential Care Centre on the site of the Sacred Heart Hospital at Roscommon.	Cllr T Ward								
<p>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 is intended to seek tenders for the appointment of a design team for this project before the end of 2019 and to have a design team appointed during Quarter 1 2020 to progress the design phase of the project in 2020.</p> <p>Joe Hoare, Assistant National Director of Estates (West)</p>										
W83Q2513	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, 2017, 2018, and 2019?	Cllr T Ward								
<p>2017</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="121 734 938 837"> <tr> <td>No. of Home Care Packages provided in Co. Roscommon</td> <td style="text-align: right;">388</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No. of Home Help Hours provided in Co. Roscommon (excludes Home Help provided through Home Care Packages)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">236,036</td> </tr> </table> <p>2018</p> <p>Funding for the Home Help Service and the Home Care Package Scheme moved to a single funded support service model since 1st January 2018 and is known as <i>Home Support for Older People</i>.</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="121 981 938 1048"> <tr> <td>No. of Home Support Hours provided in Co. Roscommon in 2018</td> <td style="text-align: right;">317,657</td> </tr> </table> <p>2019</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="121 1124 938 1191"> <tr> <td>No. of Home Support Hours provided in Co. Roscommon up to 31st July 2019</td> <td style="text-align: right;">190,315</td> </tr> </table> <p>T. Canavan & M. Greaney, A/Chief Officer, Community Healthcare West</p>			No. of Home Care Packages provided in Co. Roscommon	388	No. of Home Help Hours provided in Co. Roscommon (excludes Home Help provided through Home Care Packages)	236,036	No. of Home Support Hours provided in Co. Roscommon in 2018	317,657	No. of Home Support Hours provided in Co. Roscommon up to 31 st July 2019	190,315
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W83Q2514	Can the HSE Executive inform the Members of the Forum of the future plans for the Community mental health facilities and the staff that are employed at the Rosalie unit in Castlerea.	Cllr T Ward								
<p>Community Healthcare West is currently working with unions under the auspices of the Work Relations Commission in respect of current Rosalie Staff transferring to existing vacancies in the area.</p> <p>A proposal that would see the provision of a Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service and Psychiatry of Later Life Day Hospital at the Rosalie site has been submitted to the Department Of Health for consideration and the HSE is currently awaiting a decision in respect of same.</p> <p>T. Canavan & M. Greaney, A/Chief Officer, Community Healthcare West</p>										
W83Q2515	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. Roscommon?	Cllr T Ward								
<p>There are two waiting lists – Primary Care and School Age Team.</p> <p>School Age Team: The number of children currently on the School Age Team waiting list for appointment to see an occupational therapist in the South Roscommon area is 63 and the rest of Co. Roscommon is 101. The total on the waiting list is 164 children. There is a vacancy in the School Age team since January 2019.</p> <p>Approximately 50 children are waiting over a year on the School Age Disability Team Waiting List.</p>										

No children are waiting over a year in Primary Care.		
T. Canavan & M. Greaney, A/Chief Officer, Community Healthcare West		
W83Q2516	Could the HSE inform us of the total number of General Nurse Interns that are in their final year cycle in 2019 in Galway and Mayo, and the number of employment contracts that have been offered to the interns and take up of employment. Have all interns been offered employment contracts upon completion of their studies. What is the breakdown of reasons why positions were not offered or accepted?	Clr D Killilea
<p>The total number of student nurses and midwives in their final year cycle in 2019 in Mayo University Hospital is 27. There is a total number of 12 WTE contracts being offered.</p> <p>Galway University Hospitals had 65 final year student nurses in place during the 2019 programme cycle.</p> <p>Approval was received to retain 25 of this group of nurses. The 25 student nurses and midwives will be offered an initial position as a pre-registered staff nurse which will then be followed by a staff nurse contract, following submission of Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (NMBI) registration and subject to the usual satisfactory recruitment processes and service needs.</p> <p>10 students in GUH rejected the offer of a post at this hospital owing to taking up opportunities elsewhere.</p>		
A. Cosgrove, COO, Saolta University Health Care Group		
W83Q2517	Could the HSE confirm the number of Galway and Mayo HSE directly employed RGN's that have retired, resigned and employments terminated in 2019 and the number of nursing agency staff that are used, are any Nursing Agency Staff working outside HSE employment contracts.	Clr D Killilea
<p>Mayo University Hospital The total number of RGNs who have left Mayo University Hospital in 2019 is 13. 4 WTE Agency staff have been used.</p> <p>The hospital would not have any information on whether agency nursing staff are working outside their contracts with the HSE.</p> <p>Galway University Hospitals In GUH 49 RGNs who have left (retired, resigned and employments terminated in 2019) GUH from January 2019 to date.</p> <p>Galway University Hospitals has measures in place to monitor and reduce agency spend. The hospital has recorded minimal use of agency since January 2019. Any use of agency nurses are reviewed and approved via the agreed process, by the Director of Nursing in advance. This has allowed for significant savings in use of agency.</p> <p>On average, UHG have been using less than the equivalent of 2 agency nurses per week in month of September.</p>		
A. Cosgrove, COO, Saolta University Health Care Group		
W83Q2518	Could the HSE confirm that a preplanning meeting took place between HSE and Galway Co Co/Roads & Planning, prior to the lodgement of plans for the Residential Care Unit in Tuam and who was awarded the design and planning of the unit and at what cost, what is the up to date position in relation to planning for the unit.	Clr D Killilea
The HSE has appointed a full design team with the necessary knowledge and experience to deliver the new Residential Care Unit in Tuam. The design team is led by Coady Architects and includes O'Connor Sutton Cronin Civil & Structural Engineers, Lawlor Burns Quantity Surveyors, IN2 Mechanical & Electrical Engineers, Linesight Project Supervisor Design Process (PSDP) and Maurice Johnson & Partners Fire Engineering Consultants. As part of the preplanning process there was engagement including meetings with both the Planning Department and the Roads & Transportation Department of		

Galway County Council. The planning application was subsequently lodged on the 18th June 2019. A Request for Further Information (RFI) was issued by Galway County Council on 9th August 2019 in relation to the application. Since then there has been further engagement with the Roads & Transportation Department. I can confirm that the reply to the RFI was submitted to the planning office on the 23rd September 2019 and a decision is now awaited.

Joe Hoare, Assistant National Director of Estates (West)

W83Q2519	Could the HSE confirm the up to date position with Toghermore House, Tuam and the capital amounts allocated and required to the mental health (Grove) site in Tuam.	Cllr D Killilea
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The progression of the project to facilitate the current Toghermore residents moving to more appropriate accommodation in Tuam has been slower than anticipated due initially to planning delays and more recently to tender and construction delays on behalf of the Housing Body. The HSE has been assured that these issues are nearly resolved and they hope to progress works as soon as possible.

In respect of the Grove Site the current letter of total capital allocation for the project in 2019 is **€3.9m**. This is based on the original Capital Project Submission in 2014. The estimated project capital required based on Nov 2018 figures is as follows;

1. For Phase 1 (only) is **€8.5m** (Phase1 is a Mental Health Centre and Shared Facilities)
2. For the combined Phase 1 and Phase 2 **€10.7m** (Phase 2 is a Disability Centre for Early Intervention & School Age Children)

T. Canavan & M. Greaney, A/Chief Officer, Community Healthcare West

W83Q2520	To ask the HSE for an update on the HSE for the up-to-date position on the provision of a new primary care Centre in Tubbercurry Co Sligo.	Cllr D Mulvey
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Purchase of the site is progressing. This project is included on the list of approved projects in the HSE Capital Plan 2019.

J. Hayes, Chief Officer, CHO1

W83Q2521	To ask the HSE if and when adequate directional signage will be put in place around Ballymote to assist the public getting to the new primary care Centre at Earls field Ballymote Co Sligo.	Cllr D Mulvey
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The signs have been ordered and delivery is awaited. The signs will be put in place when they have been received.

J. Hayes, Chief Officer, CHO1

W83Q2522	I believe that diabetes patients in Limerick not getting the appropriate level of care, I have been told by one patient, that they attended the diabetic clinic in Limerick for 10 years, twice yearly and saw the consultant twice. In the 10 years they saw a different doctor each time, who would be working in the clinic for 6 months training only. I am aware of Limerick people who are getting diabetes care in Galway and have been advised repeatedly, by various professionals in Limerick and Galway, not to change to Limerick. Does the HSE intend to rectify the situation whereby there is only 1 endocrinologist consultant in Limerick but there are 8 in Galway resulting in specialist treatment not being available in Limerick for diabetics? Is it a fact that the latest and best treatments for diabetics are not available in Limerick but are in Galway?	Cllr S Hartigan
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The staffing deficits identified by Diabetes Ireland are acknowledged and addressing these deficits remains a priority for UL Hospitals Group.

There is currently 1.0 WTE consultant endocrinologist in the Group with adult diabetic patients. A second consultant position is currently being advertised. Our services are also supported by a dedicated team of clinical nurse specialists in diabetes. In addition there are three podiatrists working in diabetic foot care.

There are two consultants and a specialist dietician working with our paediatric diabetes patients. However, there is currently no specialist dietitian in post for adults with Type 1 Diabetes. Approval will be required nationally before we can progress recruitment for this post. UL Hospitals Group has identified this as a significant gap in our service and we are committed to addressing this.

This staffing deficit in respect of the specialist dietician is one of the main reasons why ULHG does not start adult patients on insulin pumps. We do, however, accept patients established on pumps from elsewhere and these patients are managed under the care of the 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 UHL.

OPD diabetic clinics take place in Ennis, Nenagh, and St John's Hospital as well as UHL. There is an average of two diabetic clinics per week across ULHG.

C. Cowan CEO UL Hospitals Group

W83Q2523	What protections are in place for shared Services along the Border in the event of a no deal Brexit.	Cllr G Crawford
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A HSE Brexit planning group has been in place since 2017 and has been working closely with the Dept. of Health on a wide range of Brexit contingency planning and mitigating actions.

In relation to the continuity of patient services, the focus of the mitigation measures is on ensuring that Service Level Agreements (SLAs) and Memorandums of Understandings (MOUs) are in place where necessary. This applies to specific service areas such as emergency cross border arrangements, cardiac and cancer services, treatment abroad placements and Cooperation & Working Together (CAWT) arrangements.

The HSE is working to ensure that services currently available to people living in border areas continue to be available post Brexit: e.g. Cardiology and Radiotherapy services at Altnagelvin, and the specialist cardiac services provided on an all Island basis for children at Our Lady's Hospital, Crumlin, as it is important to mitigate as far as possible, the implications of a no deal Brexit.

In relation to Emergency services, the National Ambulance Services here and in NI are liaising closely to ensure service continuity and agreement with regard to operating procedures. There are two key MOUs in place between the respective Ambulance Services.

The HSE is working with the Department of Health and the Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA) and industry to reduce and deal with any risk to the supply of medicines.

There is no need for patients, pharmacists or hospitals to order extra medicines. This could disrupt stocks and reduce the supply of medicines for other patients. There are already extra stocks of medicines built into the supply chain.

The Common Travel Area (CTA) is a long-standing arrangement involving Ireland and the United Kingdom that facilitates the ability of our citizens to move freely within the CTA, with associated reciprocal rights and privileges enjoyed by Irish citizens in the UK and British citizens in Ireland. The service to service arrangements that are detailed above are underpinned by the CTA. On 8th May 2019 both Governments signed an understanding that reaffirms the arrangements in relation to Healthcare and the associated reciprocal rights for Irish and British citizens.

John Hennessy, National Director, Acute Strategy & Planning Division, HSE

W83Q2524	How many positions sought for Area 1 are awaiting Departmental approval, And for how long.	Cllr G Crawford
<p>The following are the amount of positions sought for Area 1 awaiting approval and length of time: At the end of August 2019 there were 5,465 WTE's post filled to provide Community Health Care / Services across the five counties of Donegal, Sligo/Leitrim, Cavan and Monaghan. In order to align the pay budget and numbers employed national HSE approval is now required to fill posts. Currently 175 posts have been submitted and are awaiting approval across CHO 1 with waiting times from 4 to 12 weeks.</p> <p><i>J. Hayes, Chief Officer, CHO1</i></p>		
W83Q2525	Over a period 2017 and 2018 does an estimate exist for the cost of all temporary aids and appliances including crutches and walking sticks etc Not requested be returned cost to be replaced.	Cllr G Crawford
Not available at time of printing.		
W83Q2526	Can we have a updated report on the community hospital network for Donegal and clarify has any monies being allocated to Ramelton or Stranolar and when planning is being lodged for Letterkenny.	Cllr C Brogan
<p>Minor Capital has been allocated to Stranorlar and Ramelton in 2019 to carry out HIQA compliance works. The planning for Letterkenny CNU/Community Hospital is due to be lodged in October 2019.</p> <p><i>J. Hayes, Chief Officer, CHO1</i></p>		
W83Q2527	Can we have a updated report on the rebuilding programme at LGH including the Radiology department, mortuary upgrade and boiler house?	Cllr C Brogan
<p>Radiology Department The Radiology Department project is complete and the new Radiology Department opened on 14th August this year.</p> <p>With respect to the Mortuary Upgrade, both parts of the upgrade works are now completed. Work is continuing on the Boiler house upgrade.</p> <p><i>A. Cosgrove, COO, Saolta University Health Care Group</i></p>		
W83Q2528	Can we have a updated report on the services being provided at Ballymacool respite centre to families who have children with an intellectual disability, autism spectrum disorder and those with a physical disability such as cerebral palsy, parkinsonism etc.	Cllr C Brogan
<p>Ballymacool Respite Services Centre is part of the continuum of services for children, young people and adults with an Intellectual Disability, some whom may also have a physical and sensory disability. This is provided by the Health Service Executive, Intellectual Disability Services, Co. Donegal. These services are part of the overall Primary, Continuing and Community Care Services.</p> <p>The service works in partnership and collaboration with the generic, community multi-disciplinary professionals, day services and employment and Rehabilitative services who provide assessment and therapeutic input for children and adults with an Intellectual Disability.</p> <p>The aim of our service is to provide the highest quality respite care to people with varying degrees of intellectual disability in our local community. We aim to provide an experience which is equally beneficial to those who use the facility while providing their carers with a break from caring. Currently we are offering respite to 79 plus families throughout Donegal. In Ballymacool respite house we respect each individual's right to privacy, dignity, respect and choice. We endeavour to enable each individual to reach their full potential as members of the community whilst recognising and valuing the achievements of all.</p> <p>We aim to exceed any minimum standards laid down by legislation and will work to commonly accepted standards of good practice, adhering to O'Brien's principles (1987) (O'Brien. J.A frame for accomplishments). Service users are encouraged to take part in a variety of social activities of their choice and are supported by staff and</p>		

day services and/or family. Staff in Ballymacool respite house will arrange and provide transport for activities and staff will accompany service users as required.

Activities include:

- Service users can avail of any of the amenities /programmes available in local sports and leisure centres ie swimming, gym.
- Eating out, there are numerous hotels and cafes etc in the local area
- Spiritual needs by attending the local Roman Catholic, Church of Ireland, or Presbyterian Church
- Shopping
- Bowling
- Concerts
- Local Community groups that may be available
- Multi-Sensory Activities
- There are various parks and scenic walks
- Special Olympics
- Attending football games/sports events
- This list is not exhaustive

Ballymacool actively provides respite for 79 individuals (52 adults and 27 children/teenagers).

J. Hayes, Chief Officer, CHO1

W83Q2529	Can we have a updated report on the current number of vacancies in each department in LGH and how many of these areas are affected by the current recruitment embargo?	Cllr C Brogan
Not available at time of printing.		
W83Q2530	I was told in June meeting that the radiology service in our lady hospital was waiting to get a radiology X -ray machine from Sligo University Hospital replaced and that a new Radiographer would be taken on shortly, after a recent retirement. This has not happened and is unacceptable that the facility has been closed for most of this year.	Cllr F Gurn
X-Ray equipment is expected to be fully commissioned within the next 2 weeks and will be ready for use. The recruitment process for filling the retirement post has been held up due to national recruitment controls. We will progress with filling of this post based on approval received recently.		
A. Cosgrove, COO, Saolta University Health Care Group		
W83Q2531	There has been a increase in waiting times of up to 6-8 weeks for people to obtain X-ray services in Sligo University Hospital due to staff shortages. Is the HSE freeze on staff the cause of this waiting time?	Cllr F Gurn
Due to staff pressure in the Radiology Department in SUH, waiting times for x-ray has increased. However with the recent approval to hire a number of Radiographers, we hope to address this in the near future.		
A. Cosgrove, COO, Saolta University Health Care Group		
W83Q2532	Why can't patients in Aras Breffni obtain Physiotherapy services from Our Lady's Hospital although they require it and there is an Out-Patients clinic located at the hospital? I discovered recently that those patients cannot avail of it due to a high level of waiting lists for Physiotherapy, but can avail of private Physiotherapy services if they personally pay for the services. This is unacceptable for the families involved whether they are on medical card or private insurance, and should be part of their convalescing program.	Cllr F Gurn
All new residents are referred to physiotherapy, as appropriate, based on their clinical needs. Residents in Arus Breffni who are mobile, can attend the Physio Dept in OLHM with a GP referral for out patient treatment.		

<p>Community Physiotherapy Services are provided to Arus Breffni for mobility issues and post fall reviews. A private physiotherapy service is available locally to families if they wish to avail of additional support.</p>		
<p><i>J. Hayes, Chief Officer, CHO1</i></p>		
<p>W83Q2533</p>	<p>What is the current situation regarding the tender for works at Carndonagh Community Hospital and when will contractors commence works on site?</p>	<p>Cllr A Doherty</p>
<p>The second stage of the tender process for works at Carndonagh Hospital is due to be completed by the end of October this year. It is intended that a contract will be awarded in 2019 with works to commence in early 2020.</p>		
<p><i>J. Hayes, Chief Officer, CHO1</i></p>		
<p>W83Q2534</p>	<p>What contacts, negotiations and progress has occurred between HSE and Milltown house representatives, since my motion adopted 25/06/19 (W82M95) and following my correspondence and questions posed since June. Will the HSE ensure that the full potential resource in Milltown house to provide respite and support is delivered and particularly ensure that the Hydrotherapy facility is restored and made available to the numerous Disabled and Special Needs users and potential users in Inis Eoghain, Donegal and cross border areas.</p>	<p>Cllr A Doherty</p>
<p>The HSE and Friends of the JCM have been in discussions with regard to the future use of Milltown House and the agreement reached is currently with the solicitors on both sides to ensure final agreement.</p>		
<p><i>J. Hayes, Chief Officer, CHO1</i></p>		
<p>W83Q2535</p>	<p>Dunsheany House, Carndonagh: This property is under internal commission by the HSE yet remains vacant and unused for a prolonged period. Has the HSE/ local multi-disciplinary team completed the review and established a listing of compatible persons from Inishowen suitable to live in the property? What is the staffing and funding requirements for the facility and has HIQA approved registration of the facility, when will occupancy of the property commence?</p>	<p>Cllr A Doherty</p>
<p>The Apex Housing Association, the owner of the property, is in the process of undertaking general and fire maintenance works in Dunsheany House, Carndonagh. The completion of these works will determine the registration process timeframe with HIQA and the date of occupancy of the property. The multi-disciplinary team has completed its initial review of compatible persons to live in the property, which is being planned on a transitional and cost neutral staffing and funding basis.</p>		
<p><i>J. Hayes, Chief Officer, CHO1</i></p>		
<p>W83Q2536</p>	<p>Robotic Surgery list (Prostrate Cancer): additional theatre time access, allocation and increased resources required. What urgent steps are/will be undertaken to reduce the undue and unsatisfactory delays in accessing robotic surgery needs for NW clients? Will additional operating theatre time and much needed facilities and resources be provided to increase access for clients and reduce unacceptable waiting times?</p>	<p>Cllr A Doherty</p>
<p>Patients in the North West with suspected prostate cancer are referred to the Rapid Access Prostate Clinic at University Hospital Galway where a number of treatment options are available following consultation with the urology team. All men who are deemed suitable for robotic surgery are processed through this clinic and priority is given to men on clinical grounds alone.</p>		
<p>Since 2018 robotic surgery for urology patients is available at UHG to all patients attending the unit and patients are referred for this surgery if their clinical team believes that it is appropriate. All patients irrespective of where they are referred from are placed on the list for robotic surgery based on clinical priority.</p>		
<p>We are working towards increasing the availability of robotic surgery for urology patients; however this is dependent on the availability of the necessary support staff.</p>		
<p><i>A. Cosgrove, COO, Saolta University Health Care Group</i></p>		

W83Q2537	How many staff posts are currently vacant at Mayo University Hospital? Please list the number in each category. How many nurses who graduated in 2019 will be offered permanent positions and temporary positions at Mayo University Hospital?	ClIr M Kilcoyne
<p>The total number of vacant posts currently at Mayo University Hospital is 64.5: Health & Social Care Professionals= 10.5 Maintenance= 3 Management / Admin= 13 Nursing= 29 Support HCA/Porter/Domestic= 9</p> <p>12 Nurse Graduates will be offered temporary contracts.</p> <p>A. Cosgrove, COO, Saolta University Health Care Group</p>		
W83Q2538	What is the length of time patients in Mayo University Hospital have to wait to see a consultant and what is the length of time until their procedures are carried out? How many patients have been on the waiting list to see a consultant for over one year, over two years or over three years and the length of time patients have to wait from when they see a consultant until their procedure is carried out?	ClIr M Kilcoyne
<p>The total number of patients in Mayo University Hospital currently waiting to see a Consultant greater than 1 year is 3334, greater than 2 years is 606 and greater than 3 years is 754 patients.</p> <p>A significant percentage of the patients referred to above are in medical specialties and generally do not require a procedure.</p> <p>The waiting times for surgery that may be required varies significantly from specialty to specialty and on the urgency category assigned at the out patients clinic.</p> <p>The patients in the Orthopaedics and General Surgery specialties generally have their follow up procedure done at Mayo University Hospital. Patients requiring general surgery are accommodated with surgery dates at the out patients clinic and the patients requiring orthopaedic surgery are given appointments depending clinical priority, however wait time for routine surgery can be up to 2 years.</p> <p>The patients in the Urology and ENT Specialties are referred to the regional service in University Hospital Galway for their procedures and these lists are managed at that site but we are aware that there are significant wait times for some procedures. This applies in particular to patients categorised in the routine category.</p> <p>A. Cosgrove, COO, Saolta University Health Care Group</p>		
W83Q2539	How many people are waiting to receive home help in Mayo? How many have been approved and have not received it? How many applications have been submitted and are not yet assessed? How many people are receiving home help of 8 hours or less a week, between 8 and 15 hours a week and how many are receiving in excess of 15 hours home help per week?	ClIr M Kilcoyne
<p>-329 new applicants awaiting service; 14 people are waiting on additional hours.</p> <p>- 42 in Mayo. Community Healthcare West is currently trying to source Home Support Care staff for these clients waiting for the implementation of a service.</p> <p>-There are 60 applications pending assessment and discussion.</p> <p>The total number in receipt of Home Help in Mayo is 1,897 people. Home Support is implemented based on prioritised need within HSE Community Healthcare West's available resources</p>		

and is a discretionary service to support Older People to remain in their own homes where possible. All applicants who are deemed of sufficient priority to meet the implementation threshold are approved for care to be put in place. Where it is determined that an applicant requires Home Support but due to the lack of available resources it is not possible to implement care at that time, the applicant is placed on a waiting list.

T. Canavan & M. Greaney, A/Chief Officer, Community Healthcare West

W83Q2540	Can the Forum receive an update on the current status of the plans to develop a new Emergency Department at UHG?	Cllr J Connolly
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The current status of the ED build at UHG is that Stage 1 of the design process is nearing completion.

Estimated costs for the project are being prepared as part of the Stage 1 design process and will be included as part of the completed Stage 1 report.

The overall project programme is subject to the grant of planning permission for the development and the availability of capital funding.

A. Cosgrove, COO, Saolta University Health Care Group

W83Q2541	Can the Forum receive an update on the current status of the plans to develop new oncology facilities at UHG?	Cllr J Connolly
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Enabling works to clear the site for the new Radiation Oncology facility are ongoing and expected to be complete late 2019.

Tender documents have been issued to contractors for the main Radiation Oncology building and tenders are due to be submitted in early October 2019.

A. Cosgrove, COO, Saolta University Health Care Group

W83Q2542	Can the forum ascertain if patients referred to UHG for oncology care have had to receive treatment at other designated Cancer centres due to insufficient capacity at UHG?	Cllr J Connolly
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In general oncology patients at UHG are not referred to other designated Cancer Centres for treatment. However, an oncology patient may be referred to another cancer centre occasionally when a particular specialist treatment is not available at UHG.

A. Cosgrove, COO, Saolta University Health Care Group

W83Q2543	What are the determinants of the full capacity protocol at UHG and can the forum obtain the dates to date in 2019 where the Full Capacity Protocol was invoked at UHG?	Cllr J Connolly
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University Hospital Galway is an extremely busy hospital, one of the busiest in the country and has had to enact the Full Capacity Protocol on a daily basis due to the number of patients attending the Emergency Department.

The Full Capacity Protocol is initiated when other measures have been implemented and more than 18 patients remain in the ED admitted to hospital and are awaiting a bed and those numbers waiting are greater than the number of beds available in the hospital.

The full capacity protocol involves opening additional overflow areas, reducing non-emergency surgery, providing additional diagnostics, ensuring that there are additional consultant ward rounds and strengthening discharge planning. It also involves working closely with the community services to ensure that patients who are clinically fit for discharge from hospital can go home or to a step-down facility.

The hospital has put a number of other measures in place to reduce the length of time patients wait in the Emergency Department. The Acute Medicine Unit allows patients be seen directly, avoiding ED attendance. The Acute Surgical Assessment Unit takes patients directly from ED triage and a number of GPs can refer patients directly into that unit.

<p>Other measure includes the appointment of Advance Nurse Practitioners and additional support staff to improve patient flow, increased access to diagnostics at the weekend and a particular focus on early morning discharges.</p> <p>A. Cosgrove, COO, Saolta University Health Care Group</p>																						
W83Q2544	What is the specific timeline for the completion of the new 46 bed building at Sligo University Hospital?	Cllr F Armstrong McGuire																				
<p>Planning permission for the new 46 Medical bed building was received in July 2019. The next steps for the project are to complete detailed design before progressing to build. Estimated timescale for completion of all stages is 18 months.</p> <p>A. Cosgrove, COO, Saolta University Health Care Group</p>																						
W83Q2545	Is there a Moratorium in place with regard nursing recruitment in HSE West?	Cllr F Armstrong McGuire																				
<p>All HSE services have to comply with the current national recruitment controls which require appointments to be approved nationally. Within these controls there is on-going capacity to recruit some new funded posts and also replace critical clinical posts. In this context, across the hospital groups and CHO areas critical nursing posts are being progressed where national approval has been received.</p> <p>T. Canavan, Executive Lead, Regional Health Forum</p>																						
W83Q2546	What is the current status of the planned Cath Lab at Sligo Hospital?	Cllr F Armstrong McGuire																				
<p>The current Cath Lab continues to be in use weekly, with an additional session held on Friday supported by both our local Cardiologist and Cardiologists from Galway University Hospital. The National Cardiology review is still ongoing and, therefore, no further decisions have been made in relation to extending Cath Lab Services in Sligo University Hospital until completion of this national review and recommendations are known.</p> <p>A. Cosgrove, COO, Saolta University Health Care Group</p>																						
W83Q2547	When will the recruitment process commence to replace the retiring cardiologist at Sligo University Hospital?	Cllr F Armstrong McGuire																				
<p>The approval and recruitment process to replace to retiring cardiologist at Sligo University Hospital is underway and is currently with the national Consultants Appointment Unit. We also have a second consultant cardiologist post which we intend to fill on a permanent basis and we expect that both posts will be advertised when the approval is received.</p> <p>In the meantime, we are currently in the process of appointing a new temporary cardiologist. We expect to complete this recruitment process this month and the temporary consultant will be in place in January.</p> <p>A. Cosgrove, COO, Saolta University Health Care Group</p>																						
W83Q2548	To date, how many calls has the Westdoc service received in 2019? How many of these calls has a G.P travelled and attended to a patient? How many calls have been referred to the HSE Ambulance Service by Westdoc, without the patient being physically seen by the G.P on call? I would also like a breakdown of what types of calls the service has received and what action was taken in relation to these calls.	Cllr D Ó Cualáin																				
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W83Q2549	Are there any plans to develop more Primary Care Centres in the Connemara area in addition to the one planned in Moycullen? If so, where and when are they expected to be progressed? If there are no plans to develop more, can I receive clarification on why this is the case?	Cllr D Ó Cualáin
<p>HSE Estates recently advertised for expressions of interest for Primary care Centres in Spiddal and Oughterard and are evaluating them at present. This is anticipated to be completed by end of 2019. HSE Estates is also working toward the development of a Health Centre in Inis Boffin.</p>		
<p>T. Canavan & M. Greaney, A/Chief Officer, Community Healthcare West</p>		
W83Q2550	In light of the ongoing high attendance rates, ambulance delays, and excessive numbers waiting on trollies within the Emergency Department and at ward level throughout 2019 to date in GUH, what plans are in place to deal with the expected higher demand that will be placed on staff and services within the hospital over the coming winter months? Has HSE West commenced planning to deal with the known winter increase and if so, what do these plans involve?	Cllr D Ó Cualáin
<p>Galway University Hospitals has submitted its plan for managing the winter period 2019/2020 and we will work closely with CHO West.</p>		
<p>We have opened all escalation/surge beds during 2017/2018.</p>		
<p>Saolta University Health Care Group has prepared a plan for the winter in conjunction with our colleagues in Community Healthcare West and CHO 1. We will work together to maximise on community supports such as access to short stay beds, home support hours, equipment as well as with the ambulance service for on-going management and improvements in turnaround times. Across our hospitals we will implement measures including a focus on early morning ward rounds and discharge; increasing access to diagnostics – particularly at the weekend and prioritising the assessment and management of frail elderly patients.</p>		
<p>A. Cosgrove, COO, Saolta University Health Care Group</p>		
W83Q2551	Can the HSE please confirm if the reports I have received that the PHN service has been reduced and curtailed in parts of Connemara is correct? Is it also true that the service in Lettermore has been reduced to three days a week? Can I also get clarification if the service being provided in Connemara is being provided by PHN's or Community nurses?	Cllr D Ó Cualáin
<p>The service in Lettermore has not been reduced to three days a week. We are continuing to provide a five day service despite staffing difficulties. To address this the service is provided by Public Health Nurses and Registered General Nurses.</p>		
<p>T. Canavan & M. Greaney, A/Chief Officer, Community Healthcare West</p>		
W83Q2552	Can you please confirm if the HSE Capital Plan announced on the 1 st September includes a new elective hospital for Merlin Park? Can you please outline what has been approved under the Capital Plan and has there been any discussion with the Executive on the timescales for delivery of the actual items announced and cost of same.	Cllr D McDonnell
<p>A new elective hospital located in Galway forms part of the HSE Capital Plan which was published on September last. As a regional hub and one of three elective hospitals nationally (the other two located in Dublin and Cork) it is expected that the elective hospital in Galway could provide care to a broader catchment than the current Saolta region.</p>		
<p>The Capital Plan states that the design briefs, site appraisals and business cases for the provision of the Elective Hospitals will be progressed in 2019.</p>		
<p>The Capital Plan provides for the spending of just over €2 billion on health capital projects from 2019 to 2021.</p>		
<p>Full details are available at the link below</p>		
<p>https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/publications/corporate/hse-capital-plan-2019-2021.pdf</p>		
<p>A. Cosgrove, COO, Saolta University Health Care Group</p>		

W83Q2553	Can you please confirm how many posts are left unfilled due to vacancies, retirements and upcoming retirements in both the Saolta Hospital Group and Community Health Organisation West (CHO Area 2). Can you please confirm, as per the Ministers statement that all student nursing graduates for 2019 will be offered a contract with the HSE?	Cllr D McDonnell
<p>Both Community and Hospital services are carrying a significant number of vacancies. All services are expected to comply with the current national recruitment controls which require appointments to be approved nationally.</p> <p>The Saolta Group has received approval over the last six weeks to fill 180 posts, some of which are filled since the approval was received and others are in process. These are replacement posts, and funded development posts for new services. The Group regularly seeks approvals for vacancies that arise from resignations and retirements.</p> <p>A. Cosgrove, COO, Saolta University Health Care Group</p>		
W83Q2554	How many beds in UHG and Merlin Park Hospital were closed in August 2019 permanently and how many additional beds are closed in both hospitals at weekends only?	Cllr D McDonnell
<p>All hospital beds in UHG are open. It is necessary from time to time to close beds to admission because of infection control issues. In August this year there were 41 bed days lost across the hospital as an infection control response. In Merlin Park University Hospital the day-wards, which provide a 5 day service only are closed at weekends. All other beds in Merlin Park are open.</p> <p>A. Cosgrove, COO, Saolta University Health Care Group</p>		
W83Q2555	When will the Report carried out into the flooding of Letterkenny University Hospital in 2013 be made known to the Public and the members of this Forum?	Cllr G McMonagle
<p>National Estates are currently reviewing the position with the Legal Team and hope to advise of a date for publishing in the near future.</p> <p>A. Cosgrove, COO, Saolta University Health Care Group</p>		
W83Q2556	How many Positions at LUH remain vacant due to the Governments Embargo on recruiting New Staff and what services do they affect?	Cllr G McMonagle
<p>Not available at time of printing.</p>		
W83Q2557	What is the lifespan of the current MRI Scanners at LUH and what Plans are in place to replace them?	Cllr G McMonagle
<p>The MRI Scanner currently in LUH which has just recently been re-commissioned is 14 years old. An MRI Scanner has been prioritised on the National Equipment Procurement List for 2020.</p> <p>A. Cosgrove, COO, Saolta University Health Care Group</p>		
W83Q2558	Can the HSE confirm that in a scenario of a "No Deal Brexit" that the health services currently being accessed on a Cross Border basis by Patients will still be readily available after a No Deal Brexit?	Cllr G McMonagle
<p>A HSE Brexit planning group has been in place since 2017 and has been working closely with the Dept. of Health on a wide range of Brexit contingency planning and mitigating actions.</p> <p>In relation to the continuity of patient services, the focus of the mitigation measures is on ensuring that Service Level Agreements (SLAs) and Memorandums of Understandings (MOUs) are in place where necessary. This applies to specific service areas such as emergency cross border arrangements, cardiac and cancer services, treatment abroad placements and Cooperation & Working Together (CAWT) arrangements.</p> <p>The HSE is working to ensure that services currently available to people living in border areas continue to be available post Brexit: e.g. Cardiology and Radiotherapy services at Altnagelvin, and the specialist cardiac services provided on an all Island basis for children at Our Lady's Hospital, Crumlin, as it is important to mitigate as far as possible, the</p>		

implications of a no deal Brexit.

In relation to Emergency services, the National Ambulance Services here and in NI are liaising closely to ensure service continuity and agreement with regard to operating procedures. There are two key MOUs in place between the respective Ambulance Services.

The HSE is working with the Department of Health and the Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA) and industry to reduce and deal with any risk to the supply of medicines.

There is no need for patients, pharmacists or hospitals to order extra medicines. This could disrupt stocks and reduce the supply of medicines for other patients. There are already extra stocks of medicines built into the supply chain.

The Common Travel Area (CTA) is a long-standing arrangement involving Ireland and the United Kingdom that facilitates the ability of our citizens to move freely within the CTA, with associated reciprocal rights and privileges enjoyed by Irish citizens in the UK and British citizens in Ireland. The service to service arrangements that are detailed above are underpinned by the CTA. On 8th May 2019 both Governments signed an understanding that reaffirms the arrangements in relation to Healthcare and the associated reciprocal rights for Irish and British citizens.

John Hennessy, National Director, Acute Planning & Strategy Division, HSE

W83Q2559	Following on the disappointing decision of An Bord Pleanala in February of this year to overturn the grant of planning permission issued by Galway City Council for the development of a much needed larger hospice in the grounds of Merlin Park, have the HSE West had any discussions with Hospice Management with a view to identifying an alternative new site for the hospice in the intervening period. The 2018 Annual Report and Impact Statement of the Galway Hospice Foundation indicates that they regularly have a waiting list for services with demand for the essential services provided expected to double over the next 10 yrs.	Cllr L Carroll
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Community Healthcare West in conjunction with Galway Hospice are exploring a number of other options with respect to a site for the new hospice.

T. Canavan & M. Greaney, A/Chief Officer, Community Healthcare West

W83Q2560	According to news reports at the end of June 2019, sixty eight assaults were reported on HSE staff members at hospitals in the Saolta Hospital Group between January 1st and June 12th with 90% of all assaults committed on nurses. Does the HSE West have any plans to increase the number of security staff especially at University College Hospital Galway to prevent/ combat the serious incidences of attacks and assaults on staff who are already working under extreme pressure?	Cllr L Carroll
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The HSE is committed to providing a safe and healthy work environment and to supporting employees who become injured in the course of their work. The first priority following assault must always be the safety of employees and service users.

The HSE has long been proactive in encouraging staff to report all incidents and this is enshrined in the Corporate Safety Statement, Violence and Aggression policy and Incident Management Framework and Guidance.

- An incident can be a harmful Incident (Adverse Event), no harm incident, near miss, dangerous occurrence (reportable circumstance) or complaint.

-When considering the figures in the report it should be noted that staff are encouraged to report all “near misses” and incidents – even those that do not result in harm. Hence, the number of incident reports should not be considered as indicative of a level of harm. There may also be multiple reports relating to the same incident.

The provision of security services across Galway University Hospitals is currently under review and a new contract is in the process of being awarded. This process is expected to be concluded within the next 6 weeks. Management will be meeting with the new provider once they appointed to ensure that a robust security is provided to both hospitals.

A. Cosgrove, COO, Saolta University Health Care Group

W83Q2561	Has a date been fixed by the HSE to commence the works on the essential car parking facilities at the rear of the University Hospital Roscommon. The lack of adequate car parking facilities for Visitors and Staff at the Hospital on seven days a week is causing major obstructions and serious inconvenience to residents in the nearby housing estates where Visitors and Staff at the University Hospital are forced to park throughout the residential estates due to the serious lack of Hospital car parking facilities.	Cllr T Crosby
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The Rehabilitation Unit Project Team is currently preparing a Traffic & Mobility Management Plan which will help to determine the required number of additional car parking spaces. It is expected that additional spaces will be provided in conjunction with the development of the Unit. The project is at design stage presently and there is currently no confirmed date for the commencement of development works.

A. Cosgrove, COO, Saolta University Health Care Group

W83Q2562	Can the meeting be informed what measures are being taken by the HSE to reduce the totally unacceptable waiting time for Orthodontic Treatment. I understand is now up to four years waiting time for basic treatment which no doubt in turn is having serious psychological effects on many young people having to deal with the lack of treatment and the effects of this throughout their entire college life.	Cllr T Crosby
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Patients awaiting Orthodontic Treatment at Merlin Park University Hospital have a current waiting time of approximately 3.5 – 4 years. Since June 2019, a full team of staffing in place which includes two Consultant Orthodontists and an Orthodontic Therapist, trained and appointed in 2017.

A. Cosgrove, COO, Saolta University Health Care Group

W83Q2563	How many patients were left on trolleys in the University Hospital Limerick during the months of July & August 2019.	Cllr B Chambers
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The Emergency Department at University Hospital Limerick is one of the busiest in the country. We regret that any patient experiences long waiting times for beds to become available and reassure patients and families that every patient in the ED receives expert medical care, and that we are working to alleviate the situation.

Attendances remain high, and the ED continues to experience additional pressure in accessing transitional care and home care package funding, which has led to an unusually high level of delayed discharges in UHL and across UL Hospitals Group. Delayed discharges are patients deemed fit for discharge from acute care, but whose discharge has been delayed because the ongoing support and care they require is not immediately available.

Bed capacity at UHL remains considerably below that of comparable hospitals in Ireland. 455 inpatient beds is not sufficient for the needs of the MidWest region. Over the past 12 months, bed capacity at UHL has increased by five.

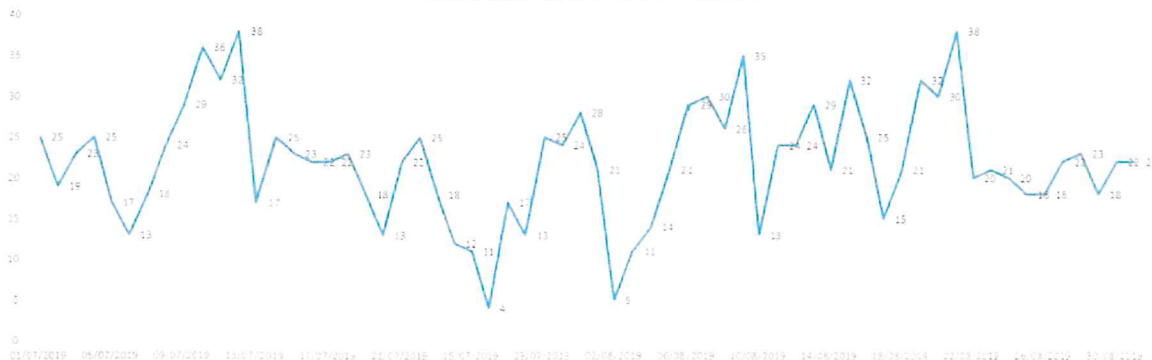
Overcrowding is a whole-health service issue and not an issue strictly for the ED or hospital system. A multi-faceted approach is required to tackle overcrowding, encompassing additional bed capacity, improved patient flow, and the development of integrated care programmes with community services – all of which are being addressed by UL Hospitals Group. We recognise the importance of a group wide focus on management of patient pathways and continue to use our existing bed stock efficiently across all our hospitals.

We continue to work with our colleagues in the community to progress transition of appropriate patients to the community, and to maximise the use of beds available across the sites of the Hospitals Group.

Please find below, data which identifies the number of patients waiting in the ED at 8am daily during July and August at UHL for transfer to a ward.

This information is published three times per day at 8am, 2pm and 8pm and can be accessed through this link <https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/campaigns/trolleygar.html>

Total Trolleys @ 8am - July and August 2019



Date	Number of patients on trolleys at 8am	Date	Number of patients on trolleys at 8am
01/07/2019	25	01/08/2019	21
02/07/2019	19	02/08/2019	5
03/07/2019	23	03/08/2019	11
04/07/2019	25	04/08/2019	14
05/07/2019	17	05/08/2019	21
06/07/2019	13	06/08/2019	29
07/07/2019	18	07/08/2019	30
08/07/2019	24	08/08/2019	26
09/07/2019	29	09/08/2019	35
10/07/2019	36	10/08/2019	13
11/07/2019	32	11/08/2019	24
12/07/2019	38	12/08/2019	24
13/07/2019	17	13/08/2019	29
14/07/2019	25	14/08/2019	21
15/07/2019	23	15/08/2019	32
16/07/2019	22	16/08/2019	25
17/07/2019	22	17/08/2019	15
18/07/2019	23	18/08/2019	21
19/07/2019	18	19/08/2019	32
20/07/2019	13	20/08/2019	30
21/07/2019	22	21/08/2019	38
22/07/2019	25	22/08/2019	20
23/07/2019	18	23/08/2019	21
24/07/2019	12	24/08/2019	20
25/07/2019	11	25/08/2019	18
26/07/2019	4	26/08/2019	18
27/07/2019	17	27/08/2019	22
28/07/2019	13	28/08/2019	23
29/07/2019	25	29/08/2019	18
30/07/2019	24	30/08/2019	22
31/07/2019	28	31/08/2019	22

C Cowan, CEO UL Hospital Group