

**Minutes of Regional Health Forum West Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2019 at 1.00pm in Room 1, Education Centre, HSE Offices, Merlin Park, Galway.**

Miontuairiscí Cruinnithe Chinn Bhliana an Fhóiraim Réigiúnach Sláinte, a tionóladh ar an 26<sup>ú</sup> Samhain, 2019 ag 1.00 .i.n, i Seomra 1 an tIonad Oideachais, Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte, Campas Ospidéil Páirc Mheirlinne, Gaillimh

**Chairperson:** Cllr John Carroll

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

**In attendance:**

Tony Canavan, Executive Lead, Regional Health Forum/CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group  
 Ann Cosgrove, Chief Operating Officer, Saolta University Health Care Group  
 Joe Hoare, Assistant National Director of Estates (West)  
 Frank Morrison, Head of Social Care, CHO, Area 1  
 Paudie O'Riordan, Chief Ambulance Officer, National Ambulance Service  
 Norah Owens, Regional Health Forum Office  
 Marian Cavanagh, Regional Health Forum Office  
 Anna Lyons, Regional Health Forum Office

**719/84/19 – Minutes of previous meeting 24<sup>th</sup> September, 2019**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 24<sup>th</sup> September, 2019 were proposed by Cllr Tony Ward, seconded by Cllr Albert Doherty and adopted.

**720/84/19 Matters Arising:**

There were no matters arising.

**721/84/19 Chairman's Address:**

**Apologies were noted from:**

Cllr Dáithí Ó Cualáin  
Cllr John O'Hara  
Cllr Aisling Dolan  
Cllr John Connolly  
Cllr Sean Hartigan  
Cllr Declan McDonnell

A vote of Sympathy was conveyed to Cllr Gerry McMonagle on the death of his mother.

**New Member:**

Cllr Martina O'Connor was welcomed from Galway City Council to her inaugural meeting, she replaces Cllr Noel Larkin who resigned from the Forum.

**Schedule of 2020 Meetings:**

The 2020 schedule of meetings was proposed by Cllr Bill Chambers, seconded by Cllr Liam Carroll and agreed by all members

**Action:** RHF Office to circulate the agreed schedule to all members.

**Action:** RHF Office to organize the printing of the Pocket Schedule

The Newsletter was reviewed and circulated.

Congratulations were extended to Cllr Daithi O Cualáin on the celebration of his marriage

**722/84/19 Questions:**

**W84Q2565 – GP's at maximum patient numbers**

**Action:** Primary Care to provide Cllr MI Kilcoyne with a number of GP's that have reached their maximum patient numbers

**W84Q2571 – Capital Projects for HSE West**

**Action:** J. Hoare to provide Cllr Killilea with an update on the project cost allocations in advance of the Feb 2020 meeting and confirm that sufficient funding is in place for each project.

**W84Q2585 – Remedial Work at the Renal Dialysis Unit in Sligo Regional Hospital**

**Action:** A Cosgrove to keep Cllr Gilroy updated on the remedial work in the dialysis unit

**Action:** A Cosgrove to check with the General Manager Sligo regarding deceased hospice patients being transported past the Renal Dialysis Unit Waiting Room.

**W84Q2587– Limits on Search & Rescue helicopter**

**Action:** Mr. Paudie O'Riordan to check the difference in timeline between road transportation by Ambulance of urgent patients to Dublin versus Air Transportation and respond to Cllr Gilroy

**W84Q2588 – Site for CNU in Carrick on Shannon**

**Action:** F Morrison to revert to Cllr F Armstrong McGuire with an update on progress on finalising this site

**W84Q2591 – Bluestack Foundation and i.C.A.RE.**

**Action:** F Morrison to revert to Cllr Doherty with confirmation of additional funding following the estimates process.

**W84Q2592–No of beds available and staff employed in Carndonagh CNU**

**Action:** F Morrison to revert to Cllr A Doherty on the specifics of staffing in Carndonagh and Bunrana

**W84Q2594 – Donagh Park**

**Action:** F Morrison to query the date of a meeting with the Donegal Co Co and the HSE regarding Donagh Park and revert to Cllr Albert Doherty 100

**W84Q2594 – Progress on access to Donagh Park**

**Action:** F Morrison will get further clarity for Cllr Albert Doherty regarding the status of the required works at the bridge leading to JMC and confirmation of the date of the next meeting with Donegal Co Co

**W84Q2597 – Properties rented free of charge in Sligo**

**Action:** J Hoare, Estates to revert to Cllr Declan Bree with the list of properties rented free of charge in Sligo

**W84Q2598– Home Help/Home Care packages in Sligo**

**Action:** The average length of time an applicant has to wait for home care package in Sligo is 3.8 months. Cllr Bree requested that this figure be documented in the minutes.

**W84Q2602 –Temporary positions at the Mental Health Unit in Letterkenny**

**Action:** F Morrison agreed to follow up with HR and revert to Cllr McMonagle with confirmation as to when the temporary staff in the mental health unit in Letterkenny can expect to be made permanent.

**716/84/19 Motions:**

**W84M102: Cuisle Holiday Resort at Donamon, Co Roscommon –**

This Motion was proposed by Cllr Tony Ward, seconded by Cllr John Cummins.

**Action:** This Motion will be referred to Minister Finian McGrath and copied to the Irish Wheelchair Association

**W84M103&M105: Medical Staffing at St. Cecilia’s School**

These Motions was proposed by Cllr Donal Gilroy and seconded by Cllr Declan Bree and seconded by Cllr Dara Muvey.

**Action:** The Motion was referred to John Hayes, Chief Officer, Area 1

**W84M104: Maternity Services in Carndonagh Community Hospital**

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

**Action:** This Motion was referred to T Canavan, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group.

**Action:** Ann Cosgrove to provide Cllr Albert Doherty with a synopsis of the Maternity Outreach Clinic services planned and the timeframe.

**723/84/19 – Any Other Business:**

Cllr Martin McLoughlin requested that the Options Appraisal presentation for the new hospitals in the West be repeated at a Committee Meeting.

Cllr John Carroll requested a copy of the National Patient Survey Report be provided to Members.

**Action:** RHF Office to email the Survey to RHF Members.

**724/84/19 Date & Time of Next Meeting:**

The next **Regional Health Forum Committee** meeting will take place on Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2019, at 1pm in Nenagh.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

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Cathaoirleach/Chairman  
*Adopted at the Regional Health Forum West meeting*

## QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

### REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM WEST – 25<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2020

NUMBER	QUESTION	RAISED BY	PAGE No.
W85Q2603	Mental Health Services at the Day Hospital in Ballinasloe.	Cllr A Dolan	3
W85Q2604	Private Ambulance Services at Portiuncula University Hospital	Cllr A Dolan	3
W85Q2605	University Hospital Galway - Coronary Care Unit (CCU)	Cllr A Dolan	3
W85Q2606	Public Health Nurses - Ballinasloe & Portumna Area	Cllr A Dolan	3-4
W85Q2607	Plans for a Primary Care Centre on Ragoon Road, Galway.	Cllr M OConnor	4
W85Q2608	Employment of graduate nurses in GUH for class of 2020	Cllr M OConnor	4
W85Q2609	When will Dunshenny House be operational?	Cllr A Doherty	4
W85Q2610	Update on works at Carndonagh Community Hospital?	Cllr A Doherty	4
W85Q2611	Has the HSE concerns on the roll out of 5G? Does the HSE communicate concerns to planning authorities on transmission masts located in Urban and Rural areas	Cllr A Doherty	5
W85Q2612	HSE contact with Donegal Co Co for a resolution to the Bridge, Donagh Park and JCM Carndonagh impasse.	Cllr A Doherty	5
W85Q2613	Psychological support to cancer survivors with the Breast Implants associated with anaplastic large cell Lymphoma.	Cllr G McMonagle	5
W85Q2614	Update on CAMHS service/inpatient beds/wait times/children on wait list in Donegal.	Cllr G McMonagle	5-6
W85Q2615	Addiction services for under 18's in Donegal.	Cllr G McMonagle	6
W85Q2616	Diabetes Service LUH.	Cllr G McMonagle	6-8
W85Q2617	Plans for staffing the 60 bed Modular Unit currently under construction at UHL?	Cllr P Burke	8
W85Q2618	A&E and Maternity Services to remain at PHB?	Cllr T Ward	8
W85Q2619	Funding issue re the urology pilot scheme at RUH and nationwide.	Cllr T Ward	8
W85Q2620	Update on the 50 bedroom unit to be built at the Sacred Heart Hospital, Roscommon?	Cllr T Ward	8-9
W85Q2621	Staff complement to cover mental health services in County Roscommon	Cllr T Ward	9
W85Q2622	When is the new Acute Mental Health Unit at SUH going to be accessible for patients?	Cllr Felim Gurn	9
W85Q2623	Disability budget for Sligo/Leitrim services, how many are availing of Disability services?	Cllr Felim Gurn	9
W85Q2624	Home Care and Respite Services Sligo/Leitrim.	Cllr Felim Gurn	9
W85Q2626	Parameters of a "doctor only medical card"/ full medical card re prescription renewal.	Cllr M Kilcoyne	9
W85Q2627	Date for the new primary care centre to open in Carrick on Shannon	Cllr P Farrell	9
W85Q2628	New jobs/type of jobs in the Primary Care Centre in Carrick on Shannon.	Cllr P Farrell	9-10
W85Q2629	Update re Community Physiotherapy vacancies in Connemara and wait lists?	Cllr D O'Cualáin	10
W85Q2630	Aras Mhic Dara, wait list for beds, 1 <sup>st</sup> choice numbers, vacant nurse positions, when open at full capacity.	Cllr D O'Cualáin	10
W85Q2631	2019 Car park income UHG, use of monies, payment to private company, parking cost reductions?	Cllr D O'Cualáin	10-11

<b>W85Q2632</b>	Update on Dietician vacancies/recruitment in GUH?	<b>Cllr D O’Cualáin</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>W85Q2633</b>	Recruitment and replacement of staff at the shop in St. John’s Community Hospital Sligo	<b>Cllr D Bree</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>W85Q2634</b>	Update regarding the filling of a speech and language therapist post for St Cecilia’s School, Sligo.	<b>Cllr D Bree</b>	<b>11-12</b>
<b>W85Q2635</b>	That a list of the non-personal FOI requests submitted to the HSE in Sligo/Leitrim in the period 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2018 to 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2019	<b>Cllr D Bree</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>W85Q2636</b>	Home Help/Home Support Service Sligo and Leitrim	<b>Cllr D Bree</b>	<b>12-13</b>
<b>W85Q2637</b>	Update on the vacant HSE houses in the Donegal Town and South Donegal area.	<b>Cllr T Conaghan</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>W85Q2638</b>	Update regarding Community hospital provision in Lifford	<b>Cllr G Crawford</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>W85Q2639</b>	Ambulance cover arrangements in the Finn Valley Donegal	<b>Cllr G Crawford</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>W85Q2640</b>	How many occasions in 2018 and in 2019 has the capacity full protocol been implemented in UHLK	<b>Cllr G Crawford</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>W85Q2641</b>	Psychiatric illness presentations to UHG A&E 2019	<b>Cllr J Connolly</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>W85Q2642</b>	Numbers admitted for in-patient psychiatric treatment at UHG in 2019 but received such treatment in hospital ward other than the designated psychiatric unit?	<b>Cllr J Connolly</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>W85Q2643</b>	How many in-patient procedures were cancelled in UHG and MPUH in January 2020	<b>Cllr J Connolly</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>W85Q2644</b>	Public Health Nurses employed in counties: Galway, Mayo, Roscommon	<b>Cllr J Connolly</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>W85Q2645</b>	Update on Mental Health Community Critical Care team closure in Dec in Galway City	<b>Cllr D Killilea</b>	<b>14-15</b>
<b>W85Q2646</b>	Budget in place for the opening and maintaining of services as planned at the Grove Hospital and Toghermore House Tuam.	<b>Cllr D Killilea</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>W85Q2647</b>	Update of the new X Ray Unit in Tuam.	<b>Cllr D Killilea</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>W85Q2648</b>	Respite care for patients with Autism, waiting time for respite to date.	<b>Cllr D Killilea</b>	<b>15-16</b>

NUMBER	QUESTION	RAISED BY
W85Q2603	<p><b><u>Mental Health Services at the Day Hospital in Ballinasloe.</u></b>            Could the HSE Primary Care section outline the supports available for serious cases that present to the day hospital and care pathways? What expertise/roles in Mental Health/Psychiatry are based in the Day Hospital in Ballinasloe.</p>	Cllr A Dolan
<p>This service is run by the secondary care Community Mental Health Team and takes referrals for service users suffering from moderate to severe Mental Health illness. Service users can be referred by the G.P, through the A&amp;E Department and from other Mental Health Services.</p> <p>Service users are offered assessments by the Consultant Psychiatrist or other members of the secondary care Community Mental Health Team. They may also be engaged with other professionals available Psychology, Nursing, Social Work, Occupational Therapist or Nurse Addiction Counsellor in the Day Hospital.</p> <p><i>Breda Crehan-Roche, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare West.</i></p>		
W85Q2604	<p><b><u>Private Ambulance Services at Portiuncula University Hospital</u></b>            Could the Saolta University Health Group outline the costs relating to private ambulance services and in particular for Portiuncula University Hospital. What % or level of transport costs are covered by the private sector versus the ambulance section within the HSE.</p>	Cllr A Dolan
<p>Portiuncula University Hospital paid €307,000 on private ambulances in 2019. All ambulance requests are logged in the first instance with the HSE, however, when HSE cannot provide a service due to emergency or more urgent requests the hospital resorts to private ambulance.</p> <p>Private ambulances are used for appointments, treatments and procedures in tertiary centres. They are also used for transport of patients requiring stretcher from hospital to nursing homes.</p> <p>We do not have data available for the% or level of transport costs covered by the private sector versus the ambulance section within the HSE.</p> <p><i>A. Cosgrove, COO, Saolta University Health Care Group</i></p>		
W85Q2605	<p><b><u>University Hospital Galway - Coronary Care Unit (CCU)</u></b>            What is the current average length of stay for patients in the CCU at UHG and what the average stay is for a Coronary care patient? What areas are they transferred to within UHG if lack of bed space and potential impact of lack of dedicated facility? Are there future plans to increase beds available in the CCU unit or other measures to ensure best care for vulnerable patients after surgery?</p>	Cllr A Dolan
<p>The Coronary Care Unit (CCU) has 8 bed spaces open for patient occupancy, patients are transferred to St. Marys Ward (cardiology ward) from CCU and on occasion to the cardiothoracic ward or other medical wards if the CCU is full.</p> <p>There are currently no further plans for increased capacity at this time, however if a third Cath Lab is developed we will require additional CCU beds.</p> <p>Our most up to date HIPE data outlines the average length of stay for patients in CCU in UHG is <u>3.65</u> days.</p> <p><i>A. Cosgrove, COO, Saolta University Health Care Group</i></p>		
W85Q2606	<p><b><u>Public Health Nurses - Ballinasloe &amp; Portumna Area</u></b>            Can the HSE provide an update on vacant Public Health Nursing positions in Ballinasloe &amp; Portumna? What is the current allocation in this area and how many are in place. What is the average population or location area which is covered by a</p>	Cllr A Dolan

	Public Health Nurse? What plans are in place to achieve a full complement of staff in this area?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>What is the current allocation in this area and how many are in place.</b> There are 3 PHN areas in Ballinasloe. The 3 PHN posts are filled (2 of the posts are maternity leaves filled with 2 PHN graduates). Portumna has 1 PHN and this post is filled by new graduate.</li> <li><b>What is the average population or location area which is covered by a Public Health Nurse?</b> Ballinasloe Populations = 7233                      Portumna Population = 3354</li> <li><b>What plans are in place to achieve a full complement of staff in this area?</b> Currently there is full complement of staff in Ballinasloe and Portumna.</li> </ul>		
<b>Breda Crehan-Roche, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare West.</b>		
<b>W85Q2607</b>	Are there plans for a primary care centre on Ragoon Road, Galway at premises currently occupied by T O Higgins TEO?	<b>Cllr M OConnor</b>
As part of its remit to deliver Primary Care Services, the Health Service Executive is exploring a number of accommodation solution options for the greater Galway city area including for Galway City West. At this stage we are not in a position to confirm any agreed solution for Galway City West.		
<b>Joe Hoare, Assistant National Director of Estates (West)</b>		
<b>W85Q2608</b>	Retention of frontline staff is one of the biggest challenges facing the HSE currently, What guarantee can we have that the class of Nurses graduating in September 2020 will be all offered positions to fill the current many vacant Whole Time Equivalents in GUH	<b>Cllr M OConnor</b>
All posts require National Director approval before we can proceed and we are currently seeking approvals monthly. As posts are approved successful candidates are offered positions.		
Galway University Hospital had 65 (4th year) final year student nurses in place during the 2019 programme cycle. Approval was received to retain 25 of this group of nurses.		
<b>T. Canavan, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group</b>		
<b>W85Q2609</b>	When will Dunsheehy House be fully staffed, occupied and operational? Will HSE explain delays to date?	<b>Cllr A Doherty</b>
Dunsheehy House will be utilised as part of the de-congregation of residents from James Connolly Memorial (JCM). Following application to HSE National Disability Office for the associated funding for the programme, I wish to confirm that the de-congregation programme will commence on a phased basis as and from July, 2021. Throughout 2020, a full assessment of need of each resident will be undertaken to inform the development of transition plans which will incorporate assessment of social care and housing needs.		
It is therefore anticipated, that Dunsheehy House will become operational with the associated funding to provide care for up to 4 people from July, 2021.		
<b>J. Hayes, Chief Officer, CHO1</b>		
<b>W85Q2610</b>	Will the HSE present a Feb.2020 update on tender allocations, completion dates for works at Carndonagh Community Hospital?	<b>Cllr A Doherty</b>
The Tenders have been returned and assessed and the preferred contractor for the construction works at Carndonagh Community Hospital is currently being appointed. The enabling works at Buncrana are due to commence in March and the completion date for all works is Q2 2021. The HSE Capital approval letter for 2020 has been received and allocates a sum of €2.20m this year for the Project.		
<b>J. Hayes, Chief Officer, CHO1</b>		



<b>W85Q2611</b>	Do HSE personnel consider and comment to planning authorities on its concerns and views on the location and extent of transmission masts located in Urban and Rural areas, and has the HSE concerns on the roll out of 5G?	<b>Cllr A Doherty</b>
<p>In the NW the applications forwarded for comment to the Public Health Department vary. Not all applications are received. If necessary we will comment on them. We have not made any comment or assessment on 5G. Currently there has been no change to the recommendations on the use of mobile phone technology following the introduction of 5G.</p> <p><b>Dr Anthony Breslin, Director of Public Health, HSE North West</b></p>		
<b>W85Q2612</b>	Will the HSE continue and prioritise its contacts with Donegal County Council to ensure a hastened, shared and agreed outcome and resolution to the Bridge, Donagh Park and JCM Carndonagh impasse resulting from the floods and bridge access issues of August 2017?	<b>Cllr A Doherty</b>
<p>Cllr Doherty attended a meeting with HSE Property Management and Donegal County Council on 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2020. I understand that it was agreed at that meeting that certain tasks would be undertaken by all of the parties involved, following which a further meeting is scheduled for Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2020.</p> <p><b>J. Hayes, Chief Officer, CHO1</b></p>		
<b>W85Q2613</b>	What Psychological support has been provided to those women who have survived cancer and who have recently been informed by the HSE that their Breast Implants associated with anaplastic large cell Lymphoma could pose a risk to their future health?	<b>Cllr G McMonagle</b>
<p>The HSE through the eight cancer centres provided a dedicated telephone helpline service for any member of the public who received letters regarding their breast implants. This helpline provided vital assurance to our patients while also triaging any request for onward clinical assessment by their surgeon (breast or plastic). It is anticipated that these clinical assessments will provide further psychological support as clinically indicated in an appropriate setting led by clinical experts and based on evolving clinical evidence.</p> <p><b>Dr. Vida Hamilton. National Clinical Advisor and Group Lead – Acute Operations.</b></p>		
<b>W85Q2614</b>	Can I have an update on the service being provided by CAMHS in Donegal, how many inpatient beds have we got in the CHO1 Area for CAMHS Patients, what are the waiting times to access CAMHS services and how many Children are awaiting this service in Donegal?	<b>Cllr G McMonagle</b>
<p>At present the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service, (CAMHS), in County Donegal is provided by two teams which are providing appropriate services to children in North and South Donegal.</p> <p>Donegal CAMHS operate a Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) approach. The MDT is made up of clinical staff from a number of disciplines including Consultant Psychiatry, Non Consultant Hospital Doctors, Social Work, Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language Therapy, Psychology, Social Care and Nursing. The service operates on an outpatient basis and provides both urgent and routine appointments, assessments and clinical interventions. Such interventions include Behavioural Therapy, Dialectical Behavioural Therapy (DBT), Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT), Play Therapy, Integrative Psychotherapy, Narrative Therapy, Jungian Sand-play Therapy, Family Therapy, Circle of Security, Mindfulness, Eye Movement Desensitisation and Reprocessing (EMDR) and Non Violent Resistance (NVR).</p> <p>There are no in-patient CAMHS beds in CHO1, however, children and adolescents who require inpatient admission are referred to Merlin Park University Hospital in Galway.</p> <p>All referrals received in CAMHS are triaged in relation to urgency and discussed at a MDT meeting.</p> <p>In relation to the waiting times for children accessing the service, children who require an urgent appointment are responded to within 72 hours. CAMHS in Donegal have consistently achieved this target. As of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019, there are 196 children waiting on a routine appointment for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services in County Donegal,</p>		

83 of these children have been waiting less than 3 months, whilst 39 children have been waiting for over 12 months.

*J. Hayes, Chief Officer, CHO1*

<b>W85Q2615</b>	How many Referrals have been made for Young People under 18 in Donegal over the last two years to see Addiction Counsellors, how many Addiction Counsellors are in service in Donegal for children under 18 years of age, what is the waiting times to see a Counsellor and do we have any inpatient beds for these children and where are they?	<b>Cllr G McMonagle</b>
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Donegal Mental Health Services has responsibility for providing Donegal Community Alcohol and Drug Services across the County of Donegal and the governance for the service lies within Mental Health Services. It has long been established that this service provides Addiction Services to the wider Primary Care population.

Donegal Community Alcohol and Drug Services have in post two members of staff who have responsibility for young people under the age of 18 years old. These two staff hold clinics at various locations to meet service need. Both staff see young people under the age of 18 for alcohol & substance misuse and also young people who are affected by parental drug and alcohol misuse. At present there is no waiting list to see a Counsellor as youth cases are prioritised.

Donegal Community Alcohol and Drug Services received 12 referrals in 2017, 5 referrals in 2018 and 10 referrals in 2019.

There are no inpatient addiction treatment beds for young people under the age of 18 in CHO1. However, there is an existing referral pathway for Aislinn Treatment Centre in Kilkenny which accepts young people aged 15-21. This service is accessed when required.

*J. Hayes, Chief Officer, CHO1*

<b>W85Q2616</b>	What steps are being taken by SAOLTA to provide a Proper and resourced diabetes service at LUH for those with Type 1 Diabetes and can they tell me when a new Endocrinologist with a fully sourced team be put in situ at Letterkenny University Hospital further can I have the current waiting times and numbers awaiting this service?	<b>Cllr G McMonagle</b>
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The Diabetic Population in Donegal continues to grow year on year. There are currently 5,185 patients with type 2 with in the Letterkenny University Hospital catchment area, and 822 patients with type 1 diabetes. Type 1 diabetes is estimated to be increasing at a rate of 3% per annum. Gestational Diabetes numbers have also increase and to date LUH have approximately 800 patients attending the gestational service.

There is currently 1wte Consultant Endocrinologist in place with approval now received to appoint another permanent 1 wte, currently there is a locum in place.

Diabetic Waiting List Data										
13/01/2020	New Urgent	New Routine	Total New Waiting List	Recall Total	Recall Backlog	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Dr Khamis	12	30	42	658	2 Years	4	42	52	197	363
Dr Abdalla				450	16 Mts	0	0	23	166	261
	5 Mt wait, 3 TCI's issued	5 Mt wait, 5 TCI's issued				4 TCI	4 TCI'ed	12 TCI'ed	127 TCI'ed	225 TCI'ed
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>1108</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>363</b>	

In 2019, there were 448 new patients seen and over 2,000 recall patients reviewed at the Adult Medical OPD.

The Diabetic Service in LUH is supported by Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS) and (candidate)Advanced Nurse Practitioner(ANP). There are 2 Adult CNSs, 1 Paediatric CNS, and 1 cANP in Paediatrics. There is support provided from the community by a CNS for 1 clinic per week.

The Adult CNSs support the Medical Outpatient Clinics including the Gestational Clinic. A business case is being prepared for a CMS in Gestational Diabetes, this will be in keeping with the maternity strategy, and provide the additional support required as the numbers are increasing.

The Adult CNS attends the medical Outpatient clinics together with the following caseload:

Nurse led clinics	Average 6 patients per week
Drop in visits	Average 5 patients per week
In patients review	Average 30 patients per week
Phonecalls from patients	Average 70 per week

The Adult CNS works with the Paeds CNS/Registered ANP in relation to the children who are transitioning from paediatric care to the adult service (16-18). That current caseload is approx. 25 patients. Mainly our Adult CNSs deal with patients who are on oral medication, multi dose injections and now they have an increasing adult cohort on pump therapy (45 patients to date).

The Adult CNSs provide structured education programmes for patients, as part of an Multidisciplinary Team. The education programmes lead to an improved quality of life for patients, improved HBA1C results as well as weight and lipid reduction.

In Paediatrics LUH has 1 RANP and 1CNS in post. Currently in LUH there are 108 type 1 diabetics attending. 65 of these are on pump therapy, 49 on multi dose injections and 25 in transition. The Paediatric Diabetic service in LUH is supported by a visiting Paediatric Consultant with an interest in Endocrinology from Sligo University Hospital. The Consultant attends here approximately every month (0.2wte). The RANP triages this clinic for those who are in need for further expert consultation. Locally the RANP is supported here by a Paediatrician run clinics every 2 weeks for those on multi

dose injections. All children under the age of 6 are referred for pump starts if they are suitable.

A dietician is part of the Diabetic MDT here in LUH- 0.7wte in Dietician is solely dedicated to the diabetic service.

LUH has a Podiatrist 0.8 wte in post. In 2019 384 patients attending this clinic. Once a month there is virtual clinic with the Consultant Endocrinologist. It is envisaged that in the near future following the appointment of a vascular nurse we would be in a position to initiate "total contact casting", which is the gold standard of care for those with diabetic foot disease.

In relation to the complexity of living with diabetes, patients should have access to a Psychologist and a Social Worker. LUH have made submissions to have these posts put in place but the applications to do so have not been successful to date.

**A. Cosgrove, COO, Saolta University Health Care Group**

<b>W85Q2617</b>	What plans are being put in place to adequately staff the 60 bed Modular Unit currently under construction at UHL?	<b>ClIr P Burke</b>
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Preparatory work has commenced and is at an advanced stage with regard to the planning and recruitment of 140 whole time equivalent (WTE) posts for the new 60 Bed ward block at UHL. These posts include a range of medical, nursing, allied health and support staff.

**C. Cowan CEO UL Hospitals Group**

<b>W85Q2618</b>	Can the HSE confirm that the A&E and Maternity Services will not be removed from Portiuncula Hospital Ballinasloe to Merlin Park Hospital Galway?	<b>ClIr T Ward</b>
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There are no plans to change either the Emergency or Maternity Services at Portiuncula University Hospital.

The Saolta options appraisal report highlighted the critical importance of continuing to develop capacity across the other hospitals in the Saolta Group. Portiuncula University Hospital is progressing the development of a 50 bedded replacement ward block and the pre-tender stage is completed for this project. In addition, we are at the tender stage for the development and upgrade of Radiology Room 3 which will facilitate replacement of fluoroscopy and the provision of interventional radiology on this site. It is envisaged that this project will be completed in 2020.

There are existing plans to progress the new Emergency Department project on the UHG site and this will incorporate a replacement Women's and Children's Unit for UHG. This will allow transfer of the services in the existing facilities on the UHG site to this building.

**T. Canavan, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group**

<b>W85Q2619</b>	Can the HSE explain why funding is being withheld for a roll out of the successful urology pilot scheme at Roscommon University Hospital and nationwide.	<b>ClIr T Ward</b>
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Following the successful completion of the pilot in Roscommon, Saolta University Hospital Group is committed to the continuation of the service at Roscommon University Hospital in the long-term. There is no confirmation at present in relation to funding for the roll-out of the programme nationally.

**T. Canavan, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group**

<b>W85Q2620</b>	Can the HSE give an update on the proposed 50 bedroom unit that is to be built at the Sacred Heart Hospital Roscommon?	<b>ClIr T Ward</b>
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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. In order to progress the design of this project tenders need to be sought for the appointment of a design team. New national frameworks for the procurement of design team members for healthcare projects were due to be in place and ready for use by mid December 2019. Unfortunately this process has taken longer than anticipated at national level. The procurement process for the frameworks is now almost complete. We therefore hope to be able to proceed with seeking

tenders for the design team from these frameworks shortly.

**Joe Hoare, Assistant National Director of Estates (West)**

**W85Q2621**

Can the HSE inform the meeting if the mental health services in County Roscommon have a full complement of staff to cover all the services in County Roscommon?

**Cllr T Ward**

There is currently a staffing compliment of 193.44 Whole Time Equivalent (WTE's) in Roscommon Mental Health Services. There are currently 11.5 vacancies, some of which are covered by agency & overtime. We are currently in the process of recruiting to these positions.

**Breda Crehan-Roche, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare West.**

**W85Q2622**

When is the new Acute Mental Health Unit at Sligo University Hospital going to be accessible for patients?

**Cllr F Gurn**

Work commenced on the New Acute Inpatient Mental Health Unit at Sligo University Hospital on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018. The new unit will consist of 25 beds based upon population and will provide the modern environment to match the needs of a 21st Century Mental Health Service.

This development is due to open in Quarter 4 of 2020.

**J. Hayes, Chief Officer, CHO1**

**W85Q2623**

What is the Disability budget for Sligo/Leitrim services and how many are availing of Disability services?

**Cllr F Gurn**

The Disability Services Sligo/Leitrim CHO1 Area budget is €57 million.

The total figure for number of persons availing of services through Disability Services is, approximately, 2,628.

**J. Hayes, Chief Officer, CHO1**

**W85Q2624**

What is the budget for Home care services/home care packages and Respite Services for Sligo/Leitrim? What is the number of families awaiting for home care hours for Sligo/Leitrim

**Cllr F Gurn**

The budget is €14,468,994.

Currently, there are 8 applicants awaiting Older Persons Services Home Care hours.

**J. Hayes, Chief Officer, CHO1**

**W85Q2626**

Can a patient who is the holder of a "doctor only medical card" or a full medical card be charged for the renewal of a prescription when the patient does not see the doctor and is dealt with by the reception staff?

**Cllr M Kilcoyne**

Medical Card holders including "doctor only medical card" holders are entitled to free general practitioner services under Section 58 of the Health Amendment Act 2005. Therefore they should not be charged for renewal of prescriptions, whether they see the GP or are dealt with by the reception staff.

**R. Broderick, Primary Care Unit, Community Healthcare West**

**W85Q2627**

When can we expect the new primary care centre to open in Carrick on Shannon

**Cllr P Farrell**

It is anticipated that the new Primary & Mental Health Care Centre in Carrick-on-Shannon will open in Q4 2020.

**J. Hayes, Chief Officer, CHO1**

**W85Q2628**

How many new jobs will be created and what type of jobs in the Primary Care Centre in Carrick on Shannon.

**Cllr P Farrell**

The opening of the new Primary & Mental Health Care Centre will entail the transfer of existing jobs to the new centre,

rather than the creation of new jobs.

**J. Hayes, Chief Officer, CHO1**

<b>W85Q2629</b>	Can I receive an update in relation to community Physiotherapy vacancies in Connemara? Why have these positions not been filled? What plans are in place to fill these vacancies? How many people are now awaiting Community Physiotherapy services in Connemara?	<b>Cllr D O’Cualáin</b>
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<b>Primary Care Team</b>	<b>Details of post</b>
South Connemara	Vacant since April 2019
Spiddal	Vacant since June 2019
The Islands	Vacant since June 2019
Oughterard	Vacant since November 2019
Clifden	Vacant since January 2020

In relation to the vacant Physiotherapy Posts, a derogation from the HSE National Director Community Operations is required to fill these vacant posts. Approval has been given to fill the Spiddal / Islands post and recruitment is underway. In relation to the other vacant posts the service will continue at every possible opportunity to seek a derogation to fill these posts. The physiotherapy service is working within the Primary Care budget that has been allocated for the service for County Galway.

There are currently 600 people waiting for the physiotherapy services in Connemara.

**Breda Crehan-Roche, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare West.**

<b>W85Q2630</b>	How many people have requested Aras Mhic Dara in Carraroe as their 1st preference for long Term Care? How many people are currently awaiting a bed in the facility both long term and respite? How many nursing positions are vacant in Aras Mhic Dara and when was the last time these positions were advertised to be filled? When is it envisaged to be able to open to full capacity again?	<b>Cllr D O’Cualáin</b>
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At present Aras Mhic Dara Community Nursing Unit (CNU) in Carraroe is registered with HIQA to accommodate 34 residents.

There are currently 5 individuals in other facilities awaiting a transfer into the Aras Mhic Dara CNU. These individuals already have Nursing Home Support (Fair Deal) approval in place. There is another person in hospital (with Fair Deal Scheme applied for) and a further 3 individuals currently at home (Fair deal applications made) also awaiting a bed in the unit. Information on the number of individuals who have requested the Aras Mhic Dara CNU as their first preference for long term care is not available as individuals can put their name down for more than one unit.

There are some staff nurse posts temporarily vacant in the unit (due to a number of maternity leaves); however there are sufficient staff nurses in place to maintain the current bed compliment of 34 beds open. Over the last 4 years, since the refurbishment works were complete, HSE Community Healthcare West have sought unsuccessfully to recruit sufficient nurses to open a potential of 47 beds within the unit. The last Staff Nurse competition undertaken by HSE Community Healthcare West, Older People Services was in January 2019.

Please note Community Healthcare West are hoping in the near future to run a campaign for the recruitment of staff nurses for the Connemara region similar to the campaign currently being undertaken for Health Care Assistants.

**Breda Crehan-Roche, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare West.**

<b>W85Q2631</b>	What is the exact monetary figure that was generated from the public carparks on the grounds of University Hospital Galway in 2019? Can I get a breakdown of where this revenue was spent/used and how much was paid to a private company?	<b>Cllr D O’Cualáin</b>
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	Are there plans to reduce the cost of parking for patient's and family members who use this car park going forward?	
<p>GUH are engaging in a tender process for the car parking service and it would be commercially sensitive to release recent information on income at this point. The net car parking income for 2016 was €1,310,888 and for 2017 was €1,449,902.</p> <p>GUH pay the Car Park management company a monthly fee to include wages of staff, management fee and insurance. The income generated becomes part of the hospital budget and is used in the running of services at GUH.</p> <p>We have a staff shuttle bus service which operates between UHG and Merlin Park Hospital (to free up parking for patients.) We intend to extend this service to patients and their families, as soon as funding for additional car parking in Merlin Park can be made available.</p> <p>There is no charge for parking at Merlin Park Hospital.</p>		
<b>A. Cosgrove, COO, Saolta University Health Care Group</b>		
<b>W85Q2632</b>	How many Dietician vacancies are within Galway University Hospital? Are reports that some wards/specialities are not being provided with Dietician support due to a shortage of staff within the hospital accurate? Are there plans to recruit more dieticians within G.U.H.	<b>Cllr D O’Cualáin</b>
<p>The current dietician vacancies due to statutory leave equates to 2.3 whole time equivalent (WTE) posts. A Controls Framework has been put in place across the health services to ensure that the HSE is demonstrating that it is delivering within the available resources provided to it.</p> <p>These controls require National Director, Acute Operations approval to progress with the recruitment of prioritised posts within the Hospital Group. No new posts can be progressed without an identified funding stream. We continue to prioritise vacant posts for approval on a monthly basis.</p>		
<b>A. Cosgrove, COO, Saolta University Health Care Group</b>		
<b>W85Q2633</b>	That the Forum be provided with a comprehensive report relating to the recruitment and replacement of staff at the shop/café in St. John’s Community Hospital, Sligo.”	<b>Cllr D Bree</b>
<p>The Multi Task Attendant position in the Shop, St John’s Hospital was vacated due to the retirement in December 2019.</p> <p>The HSE and local services have a statutory obligation to remain within budget, and to provide services commensurate with assigned funding. Enhanced control measures have been in place since summer 2019 to provide additional oversight and governance in this regard, and vacant posts are prioritised locally, and submitted to the National Director, Community Operations for approval.</p> <p>The Multi Task Attendant post in the Shop has been prioritised and has been submitted to the National Director for approval as per the above process and we await a decision on same.</p> <p>Management continue to explore all options available to ensure the shop remains open. Volunteers are currently providing cover in the shop for a few hours, 3 to 4 days per week. Advertising continues on an ongoing basis in an effort to recruit additional volunteers.</p>		
<b>J. Hayes, Chief Officer, CHO1</b>		
<b>W85Q2634</b>	That the Forum be provided with an up to date report regarding the filling of a new speech and language therapist post for St Cecilia’s School, Sligo	<b>Cllr D Bree</b>
<p>Therapy Services for children with disabilities in counties Sligo and Leitrim are currently re-configuring under the National Programme, Progressing Disability Services for Children and Young People. In line with this programme, children aged 0-18 years, who have complex developmental needs/disability, are entitled to access the services of the</p>		

Interdisciplinary Children's Disability Team, within the area the child resides. Services are provided to children/young people by the Children's Disability Team according to their home address and not by specific school/educational placements.

A new Senior Speech & Language Therapist post was filled on the 30<sup>th</sup> December 2019 and the children of St Cecilia's School are now receiving a 2 day per week service.

A new Senior Psychologist with the local School Aged Team will take up post in May 2020. This psychologist will work alongside other allied professionals to assess the needs of and provide appropriate psychological support to children with complex needs.

**J. Hayes, Chief Officer, CHO1**

<b>W85Q2635</b>	That a list of the non-personal FOI requests submitted to the HSE in Sligo/Leitrim in the period 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2018 to 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2019, including an outline of the information sought, be provided to the Forum	<b>Cllr D Bree</b>
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- Assaults at Inpatient Unit Ballytivnan, Sligo
- How many visa applications did HSE process for medical staff
- What number of agency locum staff did HSE employ across dates 31/3/2017 to 31/6/2017
- Number of children admitted to Acute inpatient unit at Ballytivnan, Sligo
- Seeking records/information relating to the appointment of consultants who are not on the Irish Medical Council Specialist Register and costs etc.
- Complaints received in relation to Inpatient Unit at Sligo/Leitrim Mental Health Services
- 9 Requests received in 2018 requesting for - Minutes of meetings of Sligo/Leitrim Mental Health Service Area Mental Health Management Team for various months
- Details of events referred to the HSE Serious Incident Management Team.
- 2 Requests for Minutes of Management meetings
- Early Intervention Statistics
- Funding for S38 & S39 Agencies
- Minutes of specific Management Meetings
- Cost of Taxis to Community Services
- Details of Primary Care Centres, locations and Staffing Services
- Details of payments to local service provider
- Details of funding for a specific therapy
- Details of GMS lists
- 3 requests for Primary Care Management Minutes

**Liam Quirke, Regional Area Manager FOI, Dept. Data Protection Officer for HSE West.**

<b>W85Q2636</b>	How many applicants in county (a) Sligo (b) Leitrim have been approved in the period 1 <sup>st</sup> August 2019 to 1 <sup>st</sup> February 2020 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 from when the application was approved, to get the package? What period of time does it take the HSE to assess and approve an application for the Home Care/Home help package.	<b>Cllr D Bree</b>
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A total of 488 applicants have been approved for Home Support Service from the 1<sup>st</sup> of August 2019 to the 1<sup>st</sup> of February 2020.



There are 8 applicants on the Older Persons Home Support Waiting List in Sligo Leitrim as at 13/02/2020.

The average length of time an applicant has to wait to receive the package once they are approved is approximately one week.

The longest length of time an applicant has been obliged to wait from when they application was approved, to get the package, is approximately two weeks.

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 process can vary with each application.

**J. Hayes, Chief Officer, CHO1**

<b>W85Q2637</b>	What is the update on the vacant HSE houses in the Donegal Town and South Donegal area	<b>Cllr T Conaghan</b>
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The HSE intends to progress the transfer of the two houses in Claredon Drive, Donegal Town to Donegal County Council. The next step in the process is for a formal valuation to be undertaken by Valuation office and this could take a number of months to complete. A formal decision will then be required and legal formalities would then need to be concluded.

**Joe Hoare, Assistant National Director of Estates (West)**

<b>W85Q2638</b>	Can consideration be given for cross border community care bed provision in relation to community hospital provision in relation to Lifford	<b>Cllr G Crawford</b>
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I can advise that cross border community beds provision of Long Term Care relates to patients who must be ordinarily resident in the Irish Republic to avail of the Fair deal scheme.

Ordinarily resident means that you have been living in the state for at least one year or that you intend to live here for at least a year. The HSE works through CAWT to facilitate cross border working and joint initiatives between services on both sides of the border.

**J. Hayes, Chief Officer, CHO1**

<b>W85Q2639</b>	Are there any plans to change the current Ambulance cover arrangements in the Finn Valley area of Donegal	<b>Cllr G Crawford</b>
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There are no plans at present to change the cover arrangements in the Finn Valley

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

<b>W85Q2640</b>	On how many occasions in 2018 and in 2019 has the capacity full protocol been implemented in UHLK	<b>Cllr G Crawford</b>
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LUH was at full capacity on 184 days in 2019

**T. Canavan, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group**

<b>W85Q2641</b>	How many Patients presented at the Accident and Emergency Unit at UHG in 2019 complaining of symptoms of psychiatric illness? How many of those patients were admitted for in-patient care and how many were discharged from the A and E unit without being admitted for further in-patient treatment?	<b>Cllr J Connolly</b>
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In 2019, 1,761 patients were referred for a specialist psychiatric opinion in the Emergency Department (ED) at UHG. All had a full psychiatric assessment, which includes a conversation with the person's next-of-kin and GP (where the person gives consent and the person is contactable).

Of these, 301 (17.1%) were admitted to the Acute Adult Mental Health Unit (AAMHU), 35 (2%) required a medical admission, 1133 (64 %) were referred for Community Mental Health Team follow up, 32 (1.8%) to addictions & the remainder to community psychology, GP, private sector etc.

**Breda Crehan-Roche, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare West.**

<b>W85Q2642</b>	How many patients were admitted for in-patient psychiatric treatment at UHG in 2019 but received such treatment in hospital ward other than the designated psychiatric unit?	<b>Cllr J Connolly</b>
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Zero: Section 63 (Prohibition of unregistered centres) of the Mental Health Act, 2001 clearly states that a psychiatric admission can only occur in an Approved Centre as defined by the Act, which does not include general hospital wards.

In Galway, an acute psychiatric admission can only occur to the Acute Adult Mental Health Unit.

However, at UHG, there is a small Liaison Psychiatry Team, which in addition to assessing patients in the ED, provides a consultation service to the medical, surgical and obstetric wards. This service received 818 referrals in 2019, with 2,708 patient contacts. Some assessments are once off, but the majority (92%) are also seen at least once on the Consultant-Led Ward Round twice-weekly. A significant proportion 93 (11.4%) are seen over 5 times during their inpatient stay

In 2019, 99 (12.1%) referrals were for self-harm requiring inpatient medical treatment, including in the Intensive Care Unit. Patients admitted with self-harm have a high level of input from the team, usually daily assessments. A further 35 were referred for assessment of suicidal ideation during an admission for another reason.

**Breda Crehan-Roche, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare West.**

<b>W85Q2643</b>	How many in-patient procedures were cancelled in University Hospital Galway and Merlin Park University Hospital in January 2020? What is the breakdown on the category of procedures cancelled in each hospital?	<b>Cllr J Connolly</b>
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The number of inpatient procedures cancelled in Galway University Hospitals in January 2020 was 439. This figure includes hospital and patient initiated cancellations are due to a variety of reasons such as bed availability, patient not fit for procedure etc.

The specialties affected include; Ears, Nose & Throat, Gynaecology, Max Fax, Orthopaedics, Plastic Surgery, Urology and general surgery

<b>Total Cancellations (IP &amp; DC) Summary</b>	<b>Jan 2020</b>
Hospital Initiated Cancellations	193
Patient Initiated Cancellations	246
<b>Total</b>	<b>439</b>

Galway University Hospitals has scaled back elective activity during the month of January due to the high numbers of patients presenting to the Emergency Department during the Winter period who require hospital admission.

**T. Canavan, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group**

<b>W85Q2644</b>	How many Public Health Nurses are employed in each of the following Counties? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Galway</li> <li>• Mayo</li> <li>• Roscommon</li> </ul>	<b>Cllr J Connolly</b>
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Galway – 107.7

Mayo – 63

Roscommon – 23.5

The above are given in WTE (Whole Time Equivalent)

**Breda Crehan-Roche, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare West.**

<b>W85Q2645</b>	Could the HSE confirm why the Mental Health Community Critical Care team were closed down last December in Galway City, what was the reason it operated from June 2019 to December 2019 and what structure was put in place to ensure that	<b>Cllr D Killilea</b>
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	patients would be seen with in 1 hour of contact by either GP or A&E service	
<p>Galway Community Mental Health services have recently enhanced their community service by extending to a seven day service, thus facilitating weekend treatment alternatives to inpatient admission and accident and emergency referral. They have also reconfigured existing crisis response positions, embedding them in local community teams, so that emergency assessments take place nearer to the patients' home, by their own multidisciplinary team thus facilitating continuity of care.</p> <p><b>Breda Crehan-Roche, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare West</b></p>		
<b>W85Q2646</b>	Can the HSE confirm what budget is in place for the opening of the Grove Hospital, and what is the budget needed to maintain the services of the unit as planned, is that money in place. Also update on Toghermore house Tuam.	<b>CIlr D Killilea</b>
<p>The HSE's Estates Division hopes to seek tenders for a building contractor in Q3 2020 and that subject to contract award that the building works would be completed by end of 2021 for the facility to become operational in Q1 2022. The future of Toghermore is linked to the development of The Grove.</p> <p><b>Breda Crehan-Roche, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare West</b></p>		
<b>W85Q2647</b>	Can the HSE confirm the status of the new X Ray unit in Tuam. Has a building been identified and where is it. What cost has been out layed to date as a result of exploration of sites.	<b>CIlr D Killilea</b>
<p>The HSE has identified two possible locations for a new Diagnostic Unit in Tuam. A partial Design Team have been appointed to develop costed feasibility studies for each location and this work is underway. On completion the feasibility studies will be evaluated as part of the review process to decide the preferred location for the Unit. There has been no cost outlaid to date in respect of this work.</p> <p><b>Breda Crehan-Roche, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare West.</b></p>		
<b>W85Q2648</b>	What plans are in place for respite care for patients with Autism, is there any new build planned for such a service. What is the waiting time for respite to date.	<b>CIlr D Killilea</b>
<p>Respite care involves the provision of alternative family or residential care for a person with a disability in order to enable the carer to get a rest/take a short break.</p> <p>HSE Community Healthcare West is allocated a budget to provide respite care and service providers across the region provide this service on its behalf on the basis of a Service Arrangement. The respite services are not available to people only with a diagnosis of Autism and, as such, Community Healthcare West does not keep Autism- specific records in respect of service users who receive respite care.</p> <p>The Western Care Association is the respite service provider in County Mayo on behalf of the HSE and includes centre based, non-centre based and home sharing respite for service users with Intellectual Disability and Autism. Each respite centre has different individual waiting times depending on the demand for each centre/service.</p> <p>In Galway Ability West and the Brothers of Charity - Galway support individuals with an Intellectual Disability and also Autism. The respite support is provided in respite centres for both adults and children and by way of family support, with staff supports going into the family home and by way of home share where support is provided by a 'host' family. Each respite centre has different individual waiting times depending on the demand for each centre, the same for family support and home share depending on the availability of 'host' families and a budget to expend on the supports.</p> <p>The Brothers of Charity Ireland – Roscommon Services is the respite service provider on behalf of HSE Community Healthcare West in County Roscommon. In that respect its St. Hilda's Services has completed its new purpose built respite home for children in Athlone which includes considerations for environmental spaces suitable for children with Autism. The service accepts referrals from the HSE. Its adult services considers individuals on a case by case basis with referrals also coming through the HSE. Individual need dictates the waiting time for service users.</p>		

There are no plans at this time to provide new build respite facilities for service users with Autism. Any capital expenditure on new respite centres is dependent on capital funding being made available and revenue funding to fund the staffing and non-pay costs in a new centre. HSE Community Healthcare West has not received any indication of funding being made available for any new respite facilities within the region during 2020.

Please note that due to the complex nature of disabilities and the ageing population of persons with disabilities service providers request additional respite funding for adults on an on-going basis. All cases are dealt with on an individual basis and individual business cases for each person supported are submitted to HSE Community Healthcare West for consideration.

***Breda Crehan-Roche, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare West.***