Minutes of Regional Health Forum West held on Tuesday, 22nd September, 2015 at 2.00pm in Room 1, Education Centre, HSE Offices, Merlin Park, Galway

Miontuairiscí Cruinnithe Chinn Bhliana an Fhóraim Réigiúnach Sláinte, a tionóladh ar an Mháirt 22, Méan

Fómhar, 2015 ag 2.00 .i.n, i Seomra 1 an tIonad Oideachais,

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte, Páirc Mheirlinne, Gaillimh

Chairperson: Cllr Tom McNamara

Members Present	Members Present (continued)	Apologies
Cllr Finola Armstrong-McGuire	Cllr Michael Hourigan	Cllr Gino O'Boyle
Cllr Tim Broderick	Cllr Michael Kilcoyne	Cllr Maria Byrne
Cllr Pat Burke	Cllr. Paddy Kilduff	Cllr. P.J. Ryan
Cllr Ciaran Brogan	Cllr Donagh Killilea	Cllr Ger Darcy
Cllr John Carroll	Cllr Michael McBride	
Cllr Lisa Chambers	Cllr Malachy McCreesh	
Cllr Michael Collins	Cllr Bernard McGuinness	Absent
Cllr Catherine Connolly	Cllr Gerry McMonagle	Cllr Pádraig Conneely
Cllr Michael Creaton	Cllr Ann Norton	Cllr Tom Connolly
Cllr Aidan Donohue	Cllr Brendan Mulroy	Cllr Gerry Crawford
Cllr David Doran	Cllr Terry O'Flaherty	Cllr Francis Foley
Cllr Caillian Ellis	Cllr Jerome Scanlan	Cllr Rosaleen O'Grady
Cllr Michael Finnerty	Cllr Eamon Scanlon	
Cllr Felim Gurn	Cllr Brigid Teefy	
Cllr Mary Hoade	Cllr Tony Ward	

In attendance:

Maurice Power, Chief Executive Officer, Saolta University Health Care Group Collete Cowan, Chief Executive Officer, UL Hospital Group Tony Canavan, Chief Officer, Area 2 John Pollock, Project Director, National Paediatric Hospital Development Board Suzanne Dempsey, Chief Director of Nursing, Children's Hospital Group Marian Cavanagh, Regional Health Forum Office Norah Owens, Regional Health Forum Office

Vote of Sympathy:

Cllr. Eamon Scanlan proposed the meeting be adjourned as a mark of respect for the late Cllr. Seamus O'Boyle, sitting member who passed away during the Summer and passed a vote of sympathy to his wife Mairéad and his four children. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Tony Ward.

Following the adjournment, the members praised the work done by the councilor. Cllr. Scanlan informed the meeting that he will be replaced on the Regional Health Forum committee by his son Gino.

Get Well Wishes:

Cllr. Terry O'Flaherty proposed to extend get well wished to Cllr. Padraig Conneely on his recent illness and wished him a speedy recovery. This was agreed by all members present.

Presentation on the new Children's Hospital Project:

Suzanne Dempsey, Chief Director of Nursing, Children's Hospital Group and John Pollock, Project Director, National Paediatric Hospital Development Board gave a very comprehensive presentation on the proposed new Children's hospital on St James Hospital Campus. This new hospital will consist of the amalgamation of Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Temple Street Children's Hospital & the National Children's Hospital in Tallaght.

Planning was lodged for all elements of the project on August 10th 2015. It is envisaged that the approx cost will be €650m, and the transition of services to the new children's hospital will commence at the end of 2019.

The Chairman thanked the presenters for their time and the vision shown in their delivery as they combined their presentations and expressed how they are "working together for our children".

532/59/15 Minutes of previous meeting 30th June, 2015

The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 30th June, 2015 were proposed by Cllr John Carroll, seconded by Cllr. Lisa Chambers and adopted.

533/59/15 Matters Arising:

SATU: Cllr C Connolly requested an update on the progress of the permanent premises for the Sexual Assault Treatment Unit.

Action: T Canavan/A Cosgrove to revert to Cllr. C Connolly.

Addiction Counselling Building: Cllr. C Connolly is seeking an update on the status of this building, will it be replace in Merlin Park and if not where will it be located. Action: T Canavan to revert to Cllr C Connolly with an update.

Fairdeal Motion: Cllr T Ward asked for any update in relation to the motion proposed at the June meeting.

Action: RHF Office to re-send a copy of the response to Cllr Ward previously circulated to Members on 20th August, 2015

534/59/15 Chairman's Address:

<u>Vote of Sympathy</u>: A vote of sympathy was passed to Paudie O'Riordan, Chief Ambulance Officer on the death of his mother.

Dedicated Telephone Line & Email Address:

The Chairman proposed and it was agreed by the Councillors to write to John Hennessy, National Director Primary Care and thank him for organising the dedicated telephone line and e-

mail address for Forum members across the country and to invite him to a future meeting of the Regional Health Forum West to give an update on the Medical Card system.

Chief Office, Area 2

The Chairman congratulated Tony Canavan on his new post as Chief Officer, Area 2. Members in turn concurred with these wishes and thanked him for his help during his time as Chief Operating Officer with Saolta University Health Care Group. Mr. Canavan thanked the members for their support and said he will continue to work together with the hospital group to better the healthcare in the West.

535/59/15 Questions:

W59Q1670– Penalties imposed on the providers of the vehicles used by the Ambulance Service:

Action: P O'Riordan to revert to Cllr M McCreesh and clarify what penalties are in place for the providers of the vehicles used by the Ambulance with regard to mechanical reliability?

W59Q1671– Analysis of Dust Samples – Irish Cement Site - Limerick

Action: Dr K Kelleher to revert to Cllr M McCreesh with the report on the analysis of dust the HSE received from the EPA.

W59Q1682- St. Patrick Hospital, Carrick on Shannon

Action: J Hayes to give further detail to Cllr. F Armstrong McGuire on the timeframe of the refurbishment of St Patrick's and if this will have an impact on the beds.

W59Q1684– Community Nursing Unit - Ballinamore

Action: J Hayes to reply directly to Cllr. F Armstrong McGuire and confirm when the additional staff for Ballinamore CNU was advertised.

Standing Orders were extended at this stage of the meeting by 30 minutes to 5.00 o'clock.

W59Q1688 – Recruitment of Permanent Nurses

Action: F Rogers to revert to Cllr. M Kilcoyne and confirm if the temporary nurses were willing to take the new permanent posts, will they be offered them?

W59Q1697 – Outstanding Health Insurance

Action: CEO Saolta & CEO UL to revert with an action plan as to how they propose to collect these outstanding monies which will help to provide much needed services across the West.

536/59/15 - Motions

W59M46 – Unit 5 & 6 Merlin Park

This motion was proposed by Cllr T O'Flaherty, seconded by Cllr. C Connolly and adopted. Action: T Canavan agreed to visit these units personally and revert to Cllr Terry O'Flaherty.

W59M49 & W59M52– Sacred Heart Hospital, Roscommon

The wording was amended to read "funding in 2015"

These motions were proposed by Cllr T Ward, seconded by Cllr. P Kilduff and adopted.

W59M53 – Dept of Psychiatry – University College Hospital Galway

This motion was proposed by Cllr C Connolly, seconded by Cllr. A Norton and adopted. Action: This motion will be referred to Minister Kathleen Lynch.

537/59/15 Date & time of Next Meeting:

The next **Regional Health Forum Committee** meeting will take place on Tuesday, 27th October, 2015 at 2pm in Galway.

The next **Regional Health Forum meeting** is now scheduled to take place on Tuesday, 24th November, 2015 at 2pm in Galway.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach/Chairman Adopted at the Regional Health Forum West meeting

QUESTIONS & RESPONSES

REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM WEST – 24th November, 2015

NUMBER	QUESTION	RAISED BY	PAGE NO.
W60Q1703	Free Parking for Cancer patients	Cllr D Doran	2
W60Q1704	Laundry Services at St Joseph's CNU - Stranorlar	Cllr G McMonagle	2
W60Q1705	Appointment of Endocrinologist for LUH	Cllr G McMonagle	3
W60Q1706	Delays in New Radiology Department in LUH	Cllr G McMonagle	3
W60Q1707	Strategy in LUH to attract Consultants, Doctors & Nurses	Cllr G McMonagle	3-4
W60Q1708	Number of HSE staff on stress related leave	Cllr G Crawford	4
W60Q1709	Increase in Private ambulances in Donegal	Cllr G Crawford	4-5
W60Q1710	ICV personnel within the Ambulance Services	Cllr G Crawford	5
W60Q1711	Name change of Letterkenny General Hospital	Cllr G Crawford	5-6
W60Q1712	FOI Request for Mayo General Hospital	Cllr L Chambers	6-7
W60Q1713	Update on Aras Attracta on-going investigation	Cllr L Chambers	7
W60Q1714	Increase of patients on trolleys in Mayo General in October	Cllr L Chambers	7-8
W60Q1715	Update on the Recruitment of Rheumatologist for MUH	Cllr L Chambers	8-9
W60Q1716	New Endoscopy Unit in Roscommon University Hospital	Cllr M Creaton	9
W60Q1717	Staffing of Ambulance base in Loughglynn	Cllr M Creaton	9
W60Q1718	Funding for the Sacred Heart Hospital	Cllr M Creaton	9
W60Q1719	Day Services at McBride Home in Westport	Cllr B Mulroy	9
W60Q1720	Blood screening test for Haemochromatosis	Cllr B Mulroy	9
W60Q1721	Maternity Department, UL Hospital	Cllr M McCreesh	9-10
W60Q1722	Ambulances Services – Mid West	Cllr M McCreesh	10-11
W60Q1723	Future plans for Aras Attracta	Cllr M Kilcoyne	11
W60Q1724	Waiting lists for Out-patient appointments at MUH	Cllr M Kilcoyne	12
W60Q1725	New 14 Bed Ward in Sligo University Hospital	Cllr F Armstrong	12
W60Q1726	Terms of contracts for nurses being recruited	Cllr F Armstrong	12
W60Q1727	Car park spaces available in GUH	Cllr P Conneely	13
W60Q1728	Faults relating to CCTV system in GUH	Cllr P Conneely	13
W60Q1729	GP position in Moycullen	Cllr P Conneely	13
W60Q1730	Details of Lease for Merlin Park Imaging Centre	Cllr P Conneely	13
W60Q1731	Development/Signage for Merlin Park Campus	Cllr M Hoade	13-14
W60Q1732	Staffing of Dental Department in Merlin Park	Cllr M Hoade	14
W60Q1733	Number of Nurses Recruited/Closure of wards - GUH	Cllr M Hoade	14-15
W60Q1734	Funding for Sacred Heart Hospital, Roscommon	Cllr T Ward	15
W60Q1735	Any plans to extend opening hours at urgent care unit RUH	Cllr T Ward	15-16
W60Q1736	Cost of rented premises in Roscommon and landlords' names	Cllr T Ward	16-17
W60Q1737	Up to date position for CNU in Letterkenny	Cllr C Brogan	17
W60Q1738	Report on current cancer services at LUH	Cllr C Brogan	17-19

W60Q1739	A progress report on the rebuild programme	Cllr C Brogan	19
W60Q1740	Recommendations following death of a young girl	Cllr C Connolly	19-20
W60Q1741	Terms of agreement of MRI Centre in Merlin Park	Cllr C Connolly	20
W60Q1742	Ambulance Service to Maam-Leenane area	Cllr C Connolly	20-22
W60Q1743	In-patient & Out-patient Orthopaedic Waiting lists - GUH	Cllr C Connolly	22
W60Q1744	New Unit on Lands adjacent to St Patricks Hospital, Carrick	Cllr F Gurn	22
W60Q1745	Rates for residential care in private nursing homes	Cllr C Brogan	23

NUMBER	QUESTION	RAISED BY
W60Q1703	Does the HSE provide free parking in our hospitals for cancer patients who are attending regularly for chemotherapy treatment etc and if not does the HSE intend to address this issue?	Clir D Doran
Saolta		
GUH	Do not provide free parking . GUH have a bus service from West and we also have the Drive to Care scheme in operat	
MUH	Mayo University Hospital currently do not offer free parkin cancer patients who are attending regularly for chemother treatment.	•
SUH	There is no free parking in Sligo for Oncology patients.	
LUH	LUH does provide free parking to cancer patients but they make themselves known at the Euro Car Park Customer Se kiosk before they attend for treatment.	
PUH	Do provide car park tokens for oncology patients who are undergoing treatment in the oncology unit - they have free parking.	e car
RUH	Roscommon Hospital provides free parking to all attending hospital.	; the
	RH does not provide a chemotherapy service.	

M Power, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group

The Mid-Western Cancer Centre in University Hospital, Limerick does provide free parking for our patients, we have our own parking outside the Cancer Centre. When our patients come to the University Hospital, they proceed to the barrier at the entrance to the staff car park and they advise security that they have an appointment in the Cancer Centre and they proceed to the Centre.

C Cowan, CEO UL Hospital Group

W60Q1704	Can I have the rationale behind the policy of Privatisation of Laundry services at St Josephs Community Hospital, Stranorlar, the name of the company who have the contract, and if staff at St Josephs have been consulted for	Cllr G McMonagle
	feedback on the effectiveness of this outsourcing?	

A decision was taken to contract laundry services in St. Joseph's Hospital to maximise the employment of staff in the provision of direct patient care. The HSE entered into a contract with Duds and Suds Company and it is estimated between 2013 and 2015 (year end) a saving of €42,500 will have been achieved. Management at St. Joseph's Hospital continue to review the quality of the service in line with staff feedback.

J Hayes, Chief Officer, Area 1			
W60Q1705	Has the Saolta Group any immediate plans to Clir G McMonagle		
	Recruit/Appoint a full additional Endocrinologist Team at		
	Letterkenny General Hospital to ensure that adequate and		
	prompt care is given to Diabetic Patients at Letterkenny		
	General Hospital?		

There is one Consultant Endocrinologist employed at LUH to look after diabetic patients – he took up post in January 2012. In recognition of increased demands LUH did recruit a long term locum in General Medicine with a Special Interest in Diabetic Care in April 2015. He has increased the capacity of the diabetic service to patients who require specialist care. Both Consultants are supported by two Clinical Nurse Specialists in Diabetic Care and all patients are supported on a shared care basis between Consultant and GP.

M Power, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group

W60Q1706	Can we have an explanation as to the further delay in	Cllr G McMonagle
	starting the new Radiology Department at Letterkenny	
	General Hospital and when can we expect work to begin	
	on this much needed project?	

Planning permission has been received recently. Work is currently underway on applying for Fire and Disability accessibility certification. Work is also underway on preparing the final document for tender. Once the additional documentation is reviewed by National Capital Programme and approved, it will go to tender to identify a preferred bidder. We expect to go to tender in early Spring 2016 as planned. Duration of contract is expected to be 12 months.

M Power, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group

W60Q1707	Can Saolta outline their strategy to attract Consultants,	Cllr G McMonagle
	Doctors and Nurses to work at Letterkenny General	
	Hospital to enable them to deliver a first class health	
	service for the people of Donegal?	

Over the past number of months, Letterkenny University Hospital have been in the process of recruiting NCHDs to fill posts for the January 2016 intake of NCHDs. One element of this process is the advertisement of expected vacant positions, and we have and continue to address this by placing advertisements in the British Journal of Medicine (on-line version and paper version), Irish Medical Times and Irish Independent. Advertisements have also been placed on the Saolta website and National Recruitment Website.

We have also been in contact with our existing NCHD group and past NCHDs cohort to inform them of upcoming vacancies. This is an excellent way of advertisement and promotion of Letterkenny University Hospital.

In addition where we have not been able to attract candidates using the method's above, we have been in contact with recruitment agencies who we work closely with to attract NCHDs for the January intake.

For any upcoming consultant vacancies again, we have used all of the methods above, with the addition of advertising in specific medical journals to attract specialty consultant grades.

A lot of work in the past few months has also been undertaken to promote Letterkenny University Hospital as an excellent place to work and includes a site specific brochure about working in Letterkenny University Hospital. This brochure provides candidates with practical information regarding moving to and living in Donegal with practical information about schools, accommodation, shopping, lifestyle etc. We have also referred prospective candidates to the excellent "Donegal Prospectus" completed by our partners in Donegal County Council.

We have been working closely with the Royal College of Physicians in Ireland in order to increase the number of Basic Specialist Trainees in Medicine training at Letterkenny University Hospital. As a result of this partnership we have secured additional training posts for SHOs in Medicine in co-operation with the Mater Misercordiae University Hospital.

In relation to Nursing, all nursing graduates are offered contracts on an annual basis and this allows us to fill the vacancies. In addition to that there are panels of nurses for all grades from which we recruit into any other vacancies. There is an excellent continuing education programme for nurses and midwives at LUH and we also support our nurses to engage in post graduate education programmes.

M Power, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group

W60Q1708	How many employees of HSE West area have recorded	Cllr G Crawford
	stress related leave in the last 3 years i.e. 2013 2014 and	
	2015 to date.	

The HSE recognises that employees are the most important asset in the delivery of high quality health and social services and at its core are the values "care, compassion, trust and learning". The Corporate Safety Statement reaffirms the HSE's commitment to placing people at the centre of the organisation. In line with this commitment, the HSE considers that the management of safety, health and welfare is of fundamental importance, as the quality of service is intrinsically linked to the provision of safe working environment and the operation of safe systems at work.

The Safety Health & Welfare at Work Act 2015 states that the HSE has a duty of care and must do what is reasonably practical to provide a safe working environment for all its employees. The HSE recognises that harmful workplace stress is an occupational safety, health & welfare issue. Management should ensure that risks are minimised as far as reasonably possible.

At this point in time there is not a comprehensive database which records stress related sick leave.

However, this is an issue which occurs and receives attention as part of the process of employment absence management.

I wish to drawn attention to recent initiatives to address this issue;

- Prevention and Management of Stress in the Workplace. A Guide for Managers
- The European Safety Week October, 19-23 2015, centred around the topic of "Healthy Workplaces Manage Stress"

The purpose of the Policy for Preventing and Managing Critical Incident Stress is to give guidance to the HSE, our managers and employees on how to identify and manage stress in the workplace, with a focus on risk assessment and hazard identification.

The HSE aim for the European Safety Week was to use the week as a platform to launch a meaningful, effective on-going campaign that will allow managers and employees gain knowledge, experience and support to assist their colleagues deal with the important issue of unhealthy stress. The professionals working in Health & Safety, Occupational Health, Employee Assistance, Organisational Psychology, Performance & Development, Health Promotion and Human Resources have been working together to provide the information and tools that will enable the effective support and management of colleagues suffering with this condition.

F Rogers, A/National Director, HR

W60Q1709	Figures provided to me last Sept in relation to private Ambulance runs related to Letterkenny General Hospital paid for by HSE were as follows:	Cllr G Crawford
	04 06 13 to 31 12 13 -284 Jan 14 to Dec 14 -1050 Jan 15 to Dec 15 -893	
	Could I have a breakdown of these figures so as to show the reason for such a significant rise in the use of private ambulances in the Health care system in Donegal?	

We are unable to give a detailed breakdown of the figures provided. However, in general the increased use of private ambulances reflects the fact that Acute Hospitals including Letterkenny University Hospital have been getting progressively busier in recent years. While the National Ambulance Services has introduced a dedicated Intermediate Care service with 10 staff in December 2012 operating from Letterkenny General Hospital, NAS are concentrating their frontline resources to emergency calls. Private Ambulances are utilised for routine planned journeys only. The use of private ambulances is intended to speed up the process of in-patient discharge from hospital to suitable community services.

We are currently looking at where efficiencies can be achieved.

M Power, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group

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W60Q1710	ICV's and crews were introduced by N.A.S in 2012. Has	Cllr G Crawford
	the number of ICV personnel remained the same at	
	Letterkenny since then and what arrangements are in	
	place to cover annual leave / sick leave to ensure no crew	
	member Starts and completes a shift with no Other	
	member to crew up with	

In December 2012 a total of 10 Intermediate Care staff were assigned to Letterkenny Ambulance Base. Daily hours of manpower is based on Minimum/ Maximum rostering, in this case minimum of 2 crews and maximum of 3. Relief is built into the roster Annual Leave and sick leave are covered from within the roster. At present there are 9 staff as one member is now on a paramedic course in National ambulance Training College. The National ambulance Service is going through a recruitment process to bring in additional Intermediate Care Staff into the service. It can happen that on occasions due to short notice there is one staff member on their own this person can operate with an existing crew as a 3rd person.

P O'Riordan, Area Operations Manager, West National Ambulance Service

W60Q1711	Is there an intention to change the name of Letterkenny	Cllr G Crawford
	General Hospital?	

The Saolta University Health Care Group has decided to include University in the formal name of each of the hospitals in the Saolta Group. This recognises the key role of the Group's academic partner NUI Galway in education, research and training across each hospital in the Saolta Group and is a further step in the implementation of the Saolta identity across the Group's constituent hospitals.

The Saolta Group's close collaboration with NUI Galway is a critical part of its role as major teaching Hospital Group both from a training perspective for all students but equally because of the many key research partnerships we undertake in collaboration with NUI Galway, including-for example- the recent opening of the Lambe Institute for Translational Research and the HRB Clinical Research facility on the UHG campus.

The Group structure allows students and staff in training the opportunity to work across all hospitals in the Group and gain important clinical experience in the different types of service each of the hospitals provide. NUI Galway is currently developing medical academies on hospital sites in Sligo, Mayo and Letterkenny. These developments mark a significant major investment by the University into clinical training on these sites.

The inclusion of University in the hospitals' titles underpins the importance each hospital plays in the provision of training to future medical and nursing and other staff and the provision of first class health services to the people of the West and North West.

As with all aspects of the implementation of this project, the most cost-effective ways of facilitating this inclusion in the hospitals' names will be used.

The Saolta University Health Care Group is comprised of;

- * Galway University Hospitals (University Hospital Galway and Merlin Park University Hospital Galway)
- * Letterkenny University Hospital
- * Mayo University Hospital
- * Portiuncula University Hospital
- * Roscommon University Hospital
- * Sligo University Hospital

M Power, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group

W60Q1712	How many FOI requests were received this year by	Cllr L Chambers
	Mayo General Hospital for patient records	
	(breakdown per month)? Of those requests received	
	how many were acknowledged within two weeks and	
	how many were responded to within four weeks	

(breakdown per month)? Can the HSE executive explain why the phone in the freedom of information office in Mayo General Hospital is not being manned and why there is a backlog in dealing with requests? What measures are the HSE taking to deal with the backlog? How many staff members are dealing with FOI requests?

Please find hereunder details of the FOI Requests and response rates year to-date

2015	New FOI Requests	Number acknowledged within 2 weeks	Number responded to within 4 weeks
January	16	16	4
February	24	24	4
March	43	43	5
April	17	17	3
Мау	10	10	2
June	38	38	7
July	17	17	2
August	21	21	1
September	15	15	2
October	3	3	0
Total YTD	204	204 (100%)	30 (15%)

Mayo University Hospital can confirm that a total number of 204 FOI requests were received year to date 2015.

Due to unforeseen staff leave in the FOI Office at Mayo University Hospital throughout 2015, it was not possible to process all requests in accordance with standard timelines.

Traditionally this office was staffed by 1 WTE Assistant Staff Officer and since July 2015 an additional 1 WTE has been assigned to this office on a full time basis (1 Clerical Officer) Due to limited resources, the FOI Office is not currently staffed on a full time basis. However, a recorded message is in place and all queries are followed up as required.

Over the past 3 months, MUH has had a contingency plan in place to assist with the progressing of all FOI Requests. Substantial progress is being made and since 5th November 2015, there are two WTE's dealing with FOI requests.

In addition a Consumer Services Officer post for MUH has recently been advertised. This post holder will be responsible for coordination of FOI Office duties in accordance with local, regional and national requirements.

M Power, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group

W60Q1713	Can the HSE executive provide an update on Aras	Cllr L Chambers
	Attracta and the on-going investigation? Is there any	
	threat to future services at the facility?	

Following the completion of the Garda investigation in March 2015 the HSE investigation was able to recommence its work and has progressed with a thorough investigation since that time which has involved the team reviewing over 290 hours of video tape.

The HSE investigation proceeded to interview stage in September 2015. Further interview dates are scheduled and it is intended to complete the investigation at the earliest possible date subject to full compliance with legal requirements and fair procedure etc.

We are currently completing an Assessment of Need for each of the current residents at Áras Attracta. This process commenced earlier this year and will be completed by the end of 2015. Future service provision will be based on these assessments in consultation with clients and their families. We expect that a number of clients will choose to live in houses in the community and will therefore not continue to reside at Áras Attracta. Our aim will be to facilitate and support the residents of Áras Attracta to live ordinary lives, in ordinary settings, doing ordinary things. Inevitably this will mean that the nature of the services provided at Áras Attracta will change as we move towards a more community based approach. For individual residents however, our priority will be the provision of the best care and services that we can provide.

T Canavan, Chief Officer, Area 2

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W60Q1714	Can the HSE executive explain the high numbers of	Cllr L Chambers
	patients on trolleys at Mayo General Hospital last	
	month (October) with a 140% increase on the same	
	period last year. Last October we had 156 patients on	
	trolleys compared to 65 in October 2014. Is there an	
	acknowledgement by the HSE that this is now a crisis	
	situation with no sign of improving? What measures	
	are being taken to address very serious issue,	
	particularly as winter approaches.	

The following table outlines the increase in ED Presentations and Medical Inpatient Admissions to MUH between 2014 and 2015

ED Presentations	October 2014	October 2015	% Increase
	2807	3100	10.4%
Medical	October 2014	October 2015	% Increase
Inpatient Admissions			
	568	603	6.1%

The Emergency Department attendance rate at Mayo University Hospital (MUH) has been consistently higher for the past three months compared with that of 2014. This trend is continuing into November 2015. The reason for trolleys is we do not have enough bed capacity to meet the demand for acute medical patients because of a sustained growth in emergency presentations and admissions. The reason for this growth is multifaceted. Mayo has rapidly

increasing ageing population and an increase in elderly frail patients. Over the past few months we had an increase in patients with respiratory problem in patients with underlying chronic health problems. We also have a high rate of cardiac related problems. There are also a number of delayed discharges awaiting placement in the community.

There are a number of actions being taken to address this issue such as

- MUH are proactively planning in order to minimise the number of patients having to wait for admission to the hospital. We are recruiting specialist teams to prevent admissions and reduce length of stay in Hospital, particularly targeting those with longer term, more chronic illnesses. We are also putting in place an elderly frail team to help older patients to have earlier supported discharges.
- We are working very closely with our colleagues in the Community to reduce the number of delayed discharges and maximise the use of these step down beds. 10 beds have reopened in Ballina District Hospital and recruitment is underway to open a further 6 beds to open in the Sacred Heart Hospital Rehabilitation Unit. We formally meet with Community Services weekly.
- We are utilising transitional care beds in Nursing Homes when appropriate.
- We are currently upgrading and expanding our Emergency Department to meet current demand. Further expansion is necessary.
- We are extending our Radiology Services to 8pm on weekdays and also providing weekend sessions in order to reduce the wait times for diagnostic services. We plan to expand Cardiac Service also in order to reduce wait times for cardiac tests and facilitate quicker discharges

M Power, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group

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W60Q1715	Can the HSE executive provide an update on the	Cllr L Chambers
	recruitment of the rheumatology consultant to	
	Manorhamilton, Leitrim and an update on when	
	services will then be provided to Mayo General. I am	
	seeking details as to what level of service will be	
	provided in terms of consultant hours, number of	
	patients expected to be seen.	

Interviews for this post were held on 15th October 2015. A candidate was selected following interview and is currently being appointed through the Public Appointment Service. The Consultant who will rotate to Mayo University Hospital will provide an 11 hour service per week. The details in terms of number of patients expected to be seen will be finalised in due course.

This additional appointment will further serve to enhance the provision of care to patients with rheumatic disease, improve service integration, and provide further educational opportunities across the hospital group.

The additional	consultant will have a significant impact on the waiting list ac	ross the region and			
	ve quality of care for rheumatology patients who currently ha	-			
distances for a					
	0, Saolta University Health Care Group				
W60Q1716	What is the time frame is in place for the opening of Clir M Create				
	the new Endoscopy unit in Roscommon Hospital and				
	are the additional staff needed been recruited				
Recruitment o	f staff to open the new Endoscopy Unit at Roscommon Univer	sity Hospital in			
	2016 has commenced.				
•	O, Saolta University Health Care Group				
W60Q1717		Cllr M Creaton			
	ambulance base in Loughglynn.				
Management	have had to refer the opening of the ambulance base i	n Loughglynn to the			
-	lations Commission. It had been hoped that this could h				
•	sultative process and it is expected that a date will be given in				
0					
P O'Riordan, A	rea Operations Manager, West National Ambulance Service	,			
W60Q1718	When do you expect a decision on funding for the	Cllr M Creaton			
	Sacred Heart Hospital Roscommon?				
No capital fund	ling has been provided to date for this project and there is no	indication at this			
•	en a decision will be made.				
T Canavan Ch	nief Officer, Area 2				
W60Q1719	Can the HSE confirm that day services will continue 5	Cllr B Mulroy			
W00Q1/15	days a week in mc bride home in Westport Co Mayo.	ciii b ividii oy			
The Day Came					
	ice at McBride Community Nursing Unit, Westport will co	ontinue as is on a 3			
days per wee					
W60Q1720	nief Officer, Area 2				
W60Q1720	Can the HSE roll out a blood screening test for	Cllr B Mulroy			
	Haemochromatosis on all people in Ireland when				
	they reach 18. This will save life's and medical costs				
Descrete	in the future.				
Response not a	available at time of printing.				
W60Q1721	With regard to the UL University Maternity Hospital	Cllr M McCreesh			
	can you please provide:				
	1. The ratio of midwifes to patients broken down by				
	month over the last year. 2. The ratio of staff to				
	patients during night shift broken down by month				
	over last year. 3. Current staffing level in the emergency				
	unit compared to the staffing numbers in this unit over				
	and compared to the starming numbers in this drift Over				

the last 5 years and a break down for each year.	

1. The ratio of midwifes to patients broken down by month over the last year.

The birth-rate over the last year was 4681 births. The funded WTE for the direct provision of midwifery care to women was 112 WTE. UMHL is participating in the National Birthrate Plus Workforce Planning which was set up by the Minister of Health –outcome of which is awaited.

This is the only evidence based workforce planning for maternity services and will inform staffing requirements based on the complexity and dependency of care provided.

2. The ratio of staff to patients during night shift broken down by month over last year.

There are 2 postnatal wards each with 27 beds. There are 3 staff on duty. The ratio of staff to patients is 1 staff to 9 patients. The antenatal ward has 29 beds which gives a ratio of 1:9.6.

Labour ward have 7 rooms and there are 5 midwives on duty plus 3 theatre staff. UMHL aims to achieve a standard of 1:1 care for women in established labour on the labour ward. On Saturday and Sunday night the staffing in the labour ward is 4 midwives and 3 theatre staff.

The Maternity Emergency Unit has 2 midwives on duty at night assisted by the Assistant Director of Midwifery when required. Activity may vary across the hospital and a system of staff deployment occurs which allows staff deployment from the quieter areas to the areas of greatest need when required.

3. Current staffing level in the emergency unit compared to the staffing numbers in this unit over the last 5 years and a break down for each year.

2015: staffing level consists of 3 midwives -7.45hrs to 16.30hrs. 2 midwives 16.30hrs to 08.00hrs.

2014: staffing level consists of 3 midwives -7.45hrs to 16.30hrs. 2 midwives 16.30hrs to 08.00hrs.

2013: staffing levels consists of 2 midwives 7.45-13.00hrs. 3 midwives 13.00hrs to 16.30hrs. 2 midwives 16.30hrs to 08.00hrs.

2012: staffing levels consists of 2 midwives 7.45-13.00hrs. 3 midwives 13.00hrs to 16.30hrs. 2 midwives 16.30hrs to 08.00hrs.

2011: staffing levels consists of 2 midwives 7.45-13.00hrs. 3 midwives 13.00hrs to 16.30hrs. 2 midwives 16.30hrs to 08.00hrs.

Emergency Pregnancy Admissions Unit is staffed by a midwife from 13.45hrs to 17.30hrs. Phlebotomy cover is currently provided on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoon.

C Cowan, CEO UL Hospital Group

W60Q1722	Can the HSE provide details of the number of ambulances dispatched to emergency situations in the HSE West region that were unable to complete the assignment due to failure of the vehicles and thus resulted in the need for another ambulance to be provided? Can the figures be provided for each Hospital Group in the HSE West region with a breakdown per month over last 2 years? Can the provider of the ambulances be identified as private	Clir M McCreesh
	supplier of from the National Ambulance Service?	

All emergency ambulance vehicles are regularly serviced and repaired in approved garages in line with manufacturer's recommendations. Pre-shift checks are carried out by all ambulance crews and defects are reported immediately and every effort is made to get the vehicle repaired and back on the road as soon as possible.

The National Ambulance Service do not utilise the services of Private Ambulance Companies.

Month	Limerick	UCHG	Letterkenny	Portiuncula	MGH	Sligo
Oct-14	4					
Nov-14	2					
Dec-14	1					
Jan-15	0	1	1			
Feb-15	0		1			
Mar-15	0					
Apr-15	0					
May-15	0	1			1	1
Jun-15	2					
Jul-15	1					
Aug-15	0		1		3	
Sep-15	0					
Oct-15	2		1			
Nov-15	0	1				

Report end Sept to 18/11/2015

P O'Riordan, Area Operations Manager, West National Ambulance Service

W60Q1723	What are the plans for Aras Attracta, Swinford and	Cllr M Kilcoyne
	does the HSE intend closing Aras Attracta and what is	
	the timescale?	

The HSE is currently completing an Assessment of Need for each of the current residents at Áras Attracta. This process commenced earlier this year and will be completed by the end of 2015. Future service provision will be based on these assessments in consultation with clients and their families.

We expect that a number of clients will choose to live in houses in the community and will therefore not continue to reside at Áras Attracta. Our aim will be to facilitate and support residents of Áras Attracta to live ordinary lives, in ordinary settings, doing ordinary things.

Inevitably this will mean that the nature of the services provided at Áras Attracta will change as we move towards a more community based approach. For individual residents however, our priority will be the provision of the best care and services that we can provide. The HSE is happy to reassure our clients and their families that our focus will be on the provision of the kinds of supports that allow them to live fulfilled lives in the community.

While the nature of the services being provided at Áras Attracta is likely to change significantly over the coming years, there is no intention to close the facility itself. Our priority for the moment is to complete the Assessment of Needs as outlined above. This will give us a clear picture of the requirements of each individual client and will therefore help us to understand the impact on Áras Attracta more clearly.

T Canavan, Chief Officer, Area 2

W60Q1724	How many people are currently on the waiting list for	Cllr M Kilcoyne
	outpatient appointments at Mayo General Hospital	
	and for long and how many have seen a consultant	
	and are waiting for the procedure to be carried out	
	and how long have they been waiting. Please give	
	figures at end of October 2013, October 2014 and	
	October 2015?	

Please find hereunder numbers of patients waiting for outpatients appointments and for procedures as at October 2013, October 2014 and October 2015.

Patients Waiting for Procedure

	< 1 Year	>1 Year	Total
2013	971	3	974
2014	1006	1	1007
2015	868	0	868

Patients Waiting for Outpatients Appointments

_		< 1 Year	>1 Year	>2 Years	Total
	2013	4203	1587	1070	6860
	2014	3653	849	68	4570
	2015	3243	1243	33	4519

M Power, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group

W60Q1725	Is the 14 bed ward ready for occupation in Sligo	Cllr F Armstrong
	General Hospital?	McGuire

Currently infrastructure upgrading, equipment purchase and recruitment is underway to ensure that the hospital is in a position to open 14 additional beds by year end. *M Power, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group*

W60Q1726	What exactly are the terms of contract being offered	Cllr F Armstrong			
	to nurses being recruited? Probation if any and for	McGuire			
	what period? Are the posts being offered temporary				
	or permanent? Are the posts pensionable? What				
	numbers have applied?				
Staff Nur	se – Terms of Contract of Employment				
 The St 	andard HSE Terms and Conditions, including DOHC appr	oved Staff Nurse			
salary	scale, is applied to all contracts issued to Staff Nurses in	the HSE.			
All rec	ruits are subject to one year's probation/performance n	nanagement if they			
have r	not already served for one year previously in the public s	ervice.			
 If a per 	rmanent vacancy exists, a permanent contract is offered	l, and if a			
tempo	prary vacancy exists (i.e. replacement for maternity leave	e, illness leave,			
etc.), a	a temporary contract is offered.				
All po	sts are pensionable and employees are obliged to contri	bute to the relevant			
	on scheme.				
Staff Nur	se Competition Data				
The re	ecent National Staff Nurse Campaign (included all Service	e Areas) had 3,700			
applic	ants.				
The U	K Initiative has had 400 applicants to-date				
F Rogers, A/N	National Director, HR				
W60Q1727	How many car-parking spaces are currently available	Cllr P Conneely			
	at UHG, and what will be the net impact on the				
	number of spaces available following the				
	construction of a new multi storey car park that is				
	currently underway				
	ently 302 'pay and display' car parking spaces for the general				
	ndesignated / unmarked car parking spaces on the site whic	ch can be accessed by			
the public or s	taff.				
It is expected	that the new two-deck car park at UHG will open in \ensuremath{Dece}	mber 2015. This is a			
replacement for	or the staff car park, which is being removed in order to facil	itate the construction			
of the new Ac	lult Acute Mental Health Unit. At the same time as the ne	ew two-deck car park			
opens, the hos	opens, the hospital will be converting two car parks currently used by staff, to paid public parking				
areas. This wi	I result in seventy (70) additional parking spaces for public u	se. The two car parks			
to be converte	d to public use are the car park outside Maternity and the Pa	ediatric Department.'			
M Power, CEO	M Power, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group				
W60Q1728	How many faults relating to the CCTV system at UHG	Cllr P Conneely			
	have been reported since 1 January 2014, and how				

this system during the same period.There is an annual service / maintenance contract in place in relation to the CCTV system in UHG,
which identifies faults and repairs required. During the period 01/01/14 to date, there have been

much money has been spent on repair or upgrade of

5 instances of repairs being carried out to cameras on the system. The total cost of these repairs was €12,902.68.

M Power, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group

W60Q1729	Have interviews taken place and has an appointment	Cllr P Conneely
	been made in respect of a GP position in Moycullen,	
	and if an update can be provided in this regard.	

Interviews for this position have taken place. The successful applicant is currently being processed for appointment. This includes references, Garda Vetting and Occupational Health assessment. We anticipate that once this process is successfully completed, the appointment will be made by the end of the year.

T Canavan, Chief Officer, Area 2

W60Q1730	Has the Saolta Group entered into a lease agreement	Cllr P Conneely
	in respect of the Imaging Centre at Merlin Park	
	Hospital, what is the name of the party awarded the	
	lease, and what are the terms of this lease?	

There is a lease arrangement in place with Alliance Medical Group. In respect of the Imaging Centre at Merlin Park University Hospital, the term of the lease is 9 years 11 months with effect from 15th May 2013.

In January 2015 The Saolta Group advertised on E-Tenders for the provision of imaging services in Galway

On the 14th July 2015, GUH transferred the lease from 'Merlin Park Radiology Group' to 'Alliance Medical Group'.

M Power, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group

W60Q1731	Can you confirm to me if there is any plans in place for	Cllr M Hoade
	any development on the Merlin Park site. Are all the units	
	currently open? Are there any plans for signage for the	
	hospital?	

It is planned to further develop Outpatient and Day Services at the Merlin Park University Hospital site. Over the last year we have relocated the Cardiac Rehabilitation Service to Merlin Park and have transferred further Physiotherapy OPD Services to the site; additional clinics have also been established in Rheumatology, Nephrology and orthopaedics.

There is a requirement to upgrade signage on the MPUH site; this will be reviewed and progressed subject to available resources.

M Power, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group

In addition to the plans outlined in the presentation to the Regional Health Forum committee on 28th January, 2014, the following developments are ongoing:-

The School of Podiatry Clinic based in Unit 3, Merlin Park has just completed a €1million development of an ambulatory day surgery unit. This unit will be used by Podiatry as well as other hospital services to provide surgery under local anaesthetic with the client returning home

the same day. The unit which is due to open in January 2016 is the first of its kind in Ireland and is expected to reduce waiting times and reduce hospital admissions. It will also be key in the clinical education of podiatry and medicine undergraduates. The aim is to deliver quality and timely surgical interventions, as an option outside of the main hospital acute setting.

The partnership between education and health and between acute services and community services to develop the Podiatry facility really demonstrates what can be achieved when a collaborative approach is used.

A submission has been made to the National Capital Steering Group by CHO 2 for a new build Community Nursing Unit on the site. Phase 1 of this project consists of 52 replacement beds for the current CNU in Units 5 & 6. Phase 2 consists of 48 additional beds and a Day care Centre.

T Canavan, Chief Officer, Area 2

W60Q1732	What is the current situation with staff in the Dental	Cllr M Hoade
	Department. A number of staff are currently on	
	maternity leave. Are there plans in place to cover	
	their maternity leave.	

The Dental Department in Co. Galway currently has three new dentists. These dentists have concentrated initially on patients needing care on waiting lists.

A dental nurse is also being recruited for 2016.

Two dentists are currently on maternity leave and a half time dentist is returning from maternity leave this month, leaving 1.5 WTEs temporarily vacant.

We will attempt to provide maternity cover. However, there are capacity constraints in several dental clinics due to renovation works that will improve the environment and efficiency. While the works are underway we cannot operate at full capacity.

T Canavan, Chief Officer, Area 2

W60Q1733	Can you confirm to me how many extra nursing staff have	Cllr M Hoade
	been taken on in the GUH group. Are all wards in UCH	
	open at present? Any plans for any ward closure in the	
	last two months of this year.	

Between October 2014 and October 2015 **18.17** additional nursing staff have been recruited to GUH

Nursing Staff			
Oct 2014 Oct 2015			
1,255.15	1,273.32	18.17	

All wards in UHG are currently open and there are no plans for ward closures.

M Power, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group

W60Q1734	Can the HSE inform the members of this forum if any capital funding has been provided to bring the Sacred	Cllr T Ward		
	Heart Hospital, Roscommon into compliance with			
	HIQA regulations?			
No capital fund	ling has been provided to date for this project.			
T Canavan, Ch	ief Officer, Area 2			
W60Q1735	Can the HSE inform members of the forum if the HSE	Cllr T Ward		
	has any plans to extend the opening hours of the			
T I	urgent care unit at Roscommon County Hospital.			
-	ans to extend the opening hours of the Minor Injuries Unit (Netric of Roscommon University Hospital.	vilu) located in the		
orgent care ce				
The opening ho	ours are 8am to 8pm, 7 days per week.			
and increase of accommodate	ubers attending the MIU have increased year on year (4,650 a f 9.1% on 2013), there is more than sufficient capacity within more attendances. embers are reminded of the referral pathway for patients to	the department to		
Unit in the Urg	ent Care Centre (public information leaflets and posters also	attached)		
Minor Injuries	Unit – in the Urgent Care Centre			
Referral Pathway				
Urge Op	eferral Urgent Care Centre Diagnose an other hospit ie, Fracture			

The Minor Injuries unit is a facility for walk in/self-referral or GP referrals located in the Urgent Care Centre.

It is open 7 days per week from 8am to 8pm daily.

Adults and children of 5 years and over who present with the following conditions can be treated in the Unit:

• Suspected broken bones in legs from knees to toes

- Suspected broken bones in arms from collar bone to finger tips
- All sprains and strains
- Facial injuries including Oral and Nasal Injuries
- Minor Scalds and burns
- Wounds, bites, cuts, grazes and scalp lacerations
- Small abscesses and boils
- Splinters and fish hooks
- Foreign bodies in eye/ears/nose
- Minor chest injures
- Minor Head injuries (must be fully conscious and had no loss of consciousness or vomiting after head injury)
- Road Traffic Accident delayed presentations only
- Change of Indwelling Urinary Cather (Adults only)
- P.E.G. tube re-insertion (Adults only)
- Dislocated shoulders (Adults only)

M Power, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group

V60Q1736 Can the HSE Executive please inform the members of this forum of how much the HSE is paying for the rental of buildings in County Roscommon? And the names of the landlords.				Cllr T Ward
No.	Prope	erty	Landlord	€ p.a.
1		selling Services, Abbey St, ommon	John & Joan O'Gara	13,340.00
2		house at Clooneybeirne, ommon	Royal Cove Development Limited	30,249.00
3	Castle Court House, (Stone Court), Roscommon		Damien Harper and Martin Ferris, Joint Receivers over Certain Assets of John O'Gara & Larry O'Gara.	46,296.00
4	Ballaghadereen Primary Care Centre		A. & D. Lynch.	18,000.00
5	Riverside House, Front Unit, Main Street, Castlerea, Co. Roscommon, (Tusla)		Marie McSharry	30,000.00
6	Monksland (old Health Centre) (Tusla)		The County Council of the County of Roscommon	1.00
7 Roscommon PCCC		ommon PCCC	Mr. Charlie O'Brien and others	328,098.00
8	Roscommon PCCC Castlerea PCC		Mr. Charlie O'Brien and others	123,948.00
9			Dr. Michael Henry and others	202,926.41

Tota	al:		995,774.35
11	Monksland PCC	Dr. Tony Lowry	202,915.94
10	Government Offices, Convent Road.	The Commissioner of Public Works.	0.00

W60Q1737	What is the current position of our new proposed	Cllr C Brogan
	community hospital in Letterkenny ?	

The HSE Estates Department and local services are currently finalising the brief for a new Community Hospital /Nursing Unit in Letterkenny. The brief will be completed in 2015 and it is then intended to procure a design team and proceed with a planning application for the development in 2016.

J Hayes, Chief Officer, Area 1

W60Q1738	Can we be given a progress report on the current	Cllr C Brogan
	cancer services at Letterkenny General hospital ?	

LUH currently employ two Consultant Oncologists and one Consultant Haematologist who provide comprehensive inpatient, day case and outpatient services for cancer patients.

Symptomatic Breast Service - Letterkenny University Hospital provides a full Symptomatic Breast Service as a satellite of the University Hospital Galway designated centre. The Letterkenny service receives a high volume of referrals and has been supported since its inception to continue developing in order to meet the increasing demand from the local population. In February 2015 the HSE and Department of Health approved additional resources to this service.

In the interim additional consultant support is being provided to Letterkenny from both University Hospital Galway and Beaumont Hospital Dublin.

Weekly MDT meeting are held with UHG to discuss patient pathway for diagnosed cancers.

Colorectal Service / Symptomatic and Screening - Letterkenny University Hospital also provides a Symptomatic Colorectal Cancer Surgery Programme and is one of the few hospitals outside of the designated cancer centres to be recognised by the National Cancer Control Programme for the provision of rectal cancer surgery.

Letterkenny University Hospital has recently advertised for two Colorectal Consultant Surgeons, which will provide an increase on the two posts previously approved.

In November 2014 Letterkenny University Hospital became a Referral Centre for patients requiring investigation as part of the Bowel Cancer Screening Programme (BowelScreen). Mobile unit commissioned in 2015 to increase capacity by 30%. KPI for Bowel Cancer screening is 28 days for urgent and 12 weeks for routine.

To facilitate this development the National Cancer Screening Service has supported the provision of a Modular Endoscopy Unit at LGH. This unit was necessary as the Capital Project to expand the existing Endoscopy Unit to JAG Accreditation standards had to be postponed as a consequence of the 2013 flood.

In addition to the above the Saolta Group has supported the appointment of three additional nurses to allow this new facility to increase throughput and reduce the number of patients having to travel outside of Donegal for their colonoscopy or their gastroscopy.

Lung Cancer - Following Lung cancer diagnosis being determined in Letterkenny University Hospital, Patient cases are discussed at a Lung Multi Disciplinary Meeting with St James Hospital via teleconferencing.

Patients that are candidates for surgery are referred to the surgeon present at the Lung MDT meeting in St James Hospital. Patients that require radiotherapy can be referred for Stereotactic radiotherapy in St James if case suitable for Stereotactic radiotherapy or to St Luke's Hospital for radiotherapy. A visiting Consultant from St. Luke's Hospital who attends LUH 3 times per month. Patients are referred to medical oncology services in LUH for chemotherapy treatment.

Radiotherapy Project - The Department of Health, The HSE and Saolta (including Letterkenny University Hospital), Clinicians and Senior Managers have been working with their counterparts in Northern Ireland over the last three years to develop a Cross Border Radiotherapy Centre in Altnagelvin Hospital Derry. This Unit is scheduled to open in October 2016 and will allow for the provision of Radiotherapy Services for the most common cancers to be provided in the North West. This services will complement the medical Oncology Services already available in Letterkenny University Hospital and also in Altnagelvin.

This facility will be one of the most significant Cancer Service Developments on the Island and will be unique in terms of its cross border mandate and funding. The clinical and social benefits for the patients of Donegal will be tremendous, significantly reducing the numbers who have to travel to Dublin and Galway for Radiotherapy.

Travel Support for Radiotherapy - At present The Friends of Letterkenny University Hospital provide a bus which transports patients undergoing radiotherapy in Dublin from LUH to St. Luke's Hospital (every Monday) and back from Dublin to Letterkenny (every Friday).

In addition the hospital works very closely with the Irish Cancer Society in the provision of the Travel to Care Scheme for patients requiring travel assistance. Financial support is available or patients who access approved NCCP location.

The HSE also provide financial support to patients from West Donegal who access Radiotherapy in St. Luke's who use flights to Dublin from Carrickfin Airport.

Patients whose health status is such that they are unable/unfit to travel in conventional car or bus transport may have access to HSE ambulance transport.

Colposcopy – LUH has a dedicated Colposcopy Unit on Floor B which was officially opened in October 2010. Any women with abnormal smears are referred to the Colposcopy service for further investigation/treatment.

M Power, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group

W60Q1739	Can we have a progress report on the rebuild	Cllr C Brogan
	programme of work at Letterkenny General hospital?	

- The interim Outpatient Department in the town centre continues and option appraisal is ongoing as to the future plan for location of this service.
- Radiology: Planning permission has been received recently. Work is currently underway on applying for Fire and Disability accessibility certification. Work is also underway to prepare tender documents. Once the additional documentation is reviewed by National Capital Programme, and approved, it will go to tender to identify a preferred bidder. We expect to go to tender in early Spring 2016 as planned. The duration of contract is expected to be 12 months.
- Kitchen Rebuild has been completed and it and it re-opened on 13/04/2015.
- Laboratory construction due to be completed in early December 2015. The Core Lab contract has been signed and the commissioning of the Core Lab is to be complete by April 2016 and Medical Records will move back then.
- CCU / Haematology Oncology Ward –Planning permission was received on 11/05/2015. We intend to go to tender in November
- Boiler house, Maintenance and Ducting System A strategy has been agreed. The works are to proceed later in 2015 subject to funding approval.
- Mortuary and staff changing facilities are currently under review in terms of one complete phase.
- Permanent Outpatient and Ambulatory Care Facility The assessment and business case is being developed.
- Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy Departments The assessment and business case is being developed. Interim arrangements have been put in place for these two services in the meantime.

M Power, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group

W60Q1740	Please clarify what steps (including any review or investigation) which were taken by Management of the HSE West and/or the Regional Hospital following the unfortunate death of a young girl on the 14 December 2011 in Temple Street Hospital in Dublin a number of days after she had been transferred to that hospital and whose	Clir C Connolly
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death was the subject of an inquest presided over by Dr
Brian Farrell who delivered his findings last October and
please furnish a copy of any report(s) carried out including
any recommendations made and any changes
implemented as a result in the period since her death to
date.

Galway University Hospitals fully engaged with the Coroner, Dr Brian Farrell during his comprehensive and detailed Inquest into the death of AC. The Inquest involved sworn evidence from a number of medical and nursing staff from GUH together with the testimony of an independent expert who assisted the Coroner in reaching his verdict. Given the comprehensive nature of the Inquest GUH do not, at this stage, intend to carry out any further review.

The inquest findings will be reviewed at our Serious Incident Management team meeting.

We are appointing a consultant paediatric endocrinologist based in Galway. This will provide local Galway based specialist expertise.

M Power, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group

W60Q1741	Please furnish <u>full details</u> in relation to the	Cllr C Connolly
	agreement of whatever nature between the HSE	
	West and the private x-ray facility on the grounds of	
	Merlin Park including furnishing the number of public	
	patients referred there in the last five years on a year	
	by year basis and on what basis they were referred	
	there.	

Alliance Medical Diagnostic Imaging Limited (AMDI), provide an MRI and CT managed Service at Galway University Hospitals as part of this tender Alliance will provide scans (MRT/CT) for a minimum of 2,500 GUH patients per annum.

Public Patients Referred to Imaging Centre 2011 -2015 (YTD)

			2013	2015	
СТ	1788	1928	1917	1598	1780
MRI	758	807	911	1099	921
Total	2546	2735	2828	2697	2701

M Power, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group

W60Q1742	Please clarify the situation re the Ambulance service	Cllr C Connolly			
	for the Maam - Leenane area including the waiting				
	times for an ambulance following a request for same	ane area including the waiting e following a request for same etting out where the available and how many and what steps to deal with the entirely			
	from a patient and setting out where the available				
	ambulances are based and how many and what steps	the waiting est for same he available d what steps ne entirely			
	times for an ambulance following a request for same from a patient and setting out where the available ambulances are based and how many and what steps have been taken to deal with the entirely unacceptable situation where patients have had to				
	unacceptable situation where patients have had to				
	wait three hours for an ambulance.				

General

The National Ambulance Service (NAS) West provides Ambulance and Pre-Hospital Emergency care to the population of County Galway operating from 6 ambulance stations: Galway, Clifden, Carraroe, Tuam, Loughrea and Ballinasloe

1.Ongoing Developments

New Bases 2015.

• **Tuam Ambulance Base** Tuam and **Mulranney Ambulance Base** became operational 24/7 in April of 2015

<u>Control</u>

• The establishment National Emergency Operations Control Centre is now a single ambulance control centre operating on 2 sites in Ballyshannon and Tallaght. Previous to this there were 8 control centres across the country.

Recruitment

 In 2015 a total of 5 paramedic trainee classes' have commenced in Ballinasloe and Tallaght totaling 66 students with a further 30 to start in November. The course lasts over a 2 year period; however staff will begin to make an impact on areas by the Q 1 and Q 2 of 2016

Intermediate Care Service

• The development of the Intermediate Care Service continues and allows for the channelling of emergency crews staffed by Advance paramedics and paramedics to emergency calls.

Aeromedical Service – Helicopter

• The government has announced in 2015 the formal establishment of the Aeromedical service which was initially introduced on a pilot basis in 2011. The service is of particular benefit to areas along the western seaboard and the more rural inland areas. The National Ambulance Service also has a Service Level Agreement with the Coast Guard to provide Aeromedical service.

Fleet and Equipment

- All ambulances in Galway and the West have received new Defibulators in 2015 each costing €25k per machine in each ambulance.
- Additional Fleet is presently being moved out across the West with further investment in 2016. The west will have received 22 front line emergency vehicles across the Area of the MW, West and NW.

2. Leenane and Maam

The challenges of servicing areas such as Lennane and Maam in south Connemara through conventional Emergency ambulances with the difficulties due to the population and spread extending across a large rural area. Response times around the country vary significantly based on a number of factors:

- Geographical and Demographical challenges
- Road Network
- Capacity (distance between Ambulance Stations)

What are we doing to Improve Performance?

NAS is taking a number of steps to provide a more timely response and improved patient outcomes.

- Working with the Dept of Health, HSE and National Ambulance Service publication of a Vision 2020 Strategy Document for the next 5 years.
- Continued recruitment and training of staff
- Development of existing staff including up skilling and training of advance Paramedics
- Processes around call taking and dispatch National Emergency Control Centre
- Engagement with and development of Community First Responder Schemes
- Dynamic Deployment.
- Plan for the Elimination of On Call
- Development of Clinical Performance Measures through the Medical Director
- Optimising the existing resources through deployment and resource mix
- Estates Capital Investment Programme.

Community First Responders

Community First Responders can play a vital role in helping the NAS to save lives. A new National Forum for Community First Responder Schemes is now in place. These schemes compliment the services provided by the ambulance service and ensure that life saving emergency treatment can begin as soon as possible.

The service developments outlined will impact positively not only on the population of Maam and Lennane but similar communities across the west. There will continue to be challenges particularly in isolated rural areas that require an integrated approach to pre hospital emergency care with a focused approach to patient care and clinical outcomes. The National Ambulance Service is committed to putting in place a programme that will lead to continuous developments toward improved patient care.

P O'Riordan, Area Operations Manager, West National Ambulance Service

W60Q1743	Please furnish the in-patient and out-patient waiting	Cllr C Connolly
	lists for Orthopaedic surgery and procedures in	
	Galway and please clarify how Management can	
	stand over such lists and/or a seriously ill patient	
	being told that it would be up to 2 years waiting for	
	major spinal surgery due to lack of funding and that	
	on top of a two year waiting list for an MRI and more	
	particularly what steps have been taken by	
	management to deal with this situation and/or what	
	urgent representations have been made to the	
	Department of Health to remedy the situation.	

Inpatient Outpatient Waiting List for Orthopaedic Surgery

Orthopaedic I	npatient Wai	iting List							
	3-6	6-8	8-12		15-18	18-24	24-36	48+	
0-3 Months	Months	Months	Months	12-15 Mths	Mths	Mths	Months	Months	Total
342	226	80	94	31	20	19	3	1	816

Orthopaedic Outpatient Waiting List

0-3 Mths	3-6 Mths	6-9 Mths	9-12 Mths	12-15 Mths	15-18 Mths	18-21 Mths	21-24 Mths	24-36 Mths	36-48 Mths	Total
IVITINS	IVITINS	IVITINS	IVITINS	IVITINS	IVITINS	IVITINS	IVITINS	IVITINS	IVITINS	
893	817	808	674	655	256	224	112	135	53	4627

The orthopaedics waiting list is challenging both at a local and national level with high numbers of patients waiting for access to outpatient and inpatient treatment. There have recently been new consultant appointments to the orthopaedic service and it is planned that OPD services will be further developed to increase capacity.

We are particularly challenged with regard to the waiting list for elective spinal (including scoliosis) surgery which is high end complex surgery.

Our Emergency spinal Trauma work in GUH is significant which impacts on our ability to undertake the elective element of the service; however we are actively working on developing the elements required to support the service including inpatient beds, high end equipment, theatre capacity and staffing.

M Power, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group

W60Q1744	Can the executive give an update on the Department of	Cllr F Gurn
	Health's response to their application for funding for the	
	construction of a new unit on lands adjacent to St.	
	Patrick's Hospital, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim?	

The Health Services Executive is currently awaiting the necessary approvals from the Department of Health relating to the capital programme to upgrade / replace publicly owned community hospitals / nursing units.

The HSE have proposed replacing the current facility with a new unit on a HSE owned Greenfield site.

J Hayes, Chief Officer, Area 1

W60Q1745	What are the current rates being paid for residential	Cllr C Brogan
	care in private nursing homes and can the rates for	
	each county in the HSE West be published?	

Under the Nursing Home Support Scheme Act the National Treatment Purchase Fund (NTPF) has been designated by the Minister for Health, as a body authorised to negotiate with proprietors of registered nursing homes to reach agreement in relation to the maximum price(s) that will be charged for the provision of long-term residential care services. As part of this function, the NTPF will enter into "Approved Nursing Home Agreements" with registered private and voluntary nursing homes to record the maximum price(s) that have been negotiated. The NTPF will provide the HSE with the details of all Approved Nursing Home Agreements.

Attached **(See Appendix A)** is a summary report last updated on the 15/10/2015 that provides the rates for each county across the country which you can review for information pertaining specifically to the counties in the former HSE West area.

Pascal Moynihan, Director of Older People Services

Appendix A

					Maximum Ag Price (per w	
IURSING HOMES SUPPORT SCHE IURSING HOMES	ME MAXIMUM AGREED PR	ICES WITH PRIVATE AN	ID VOLUNTARY		Single	Shared
lursing Home Name	Address 1	Address 2	Address 3	County	room €	room €
Co. Donegal						
Aras Mhic Suibhne Nursing Home	Mullinasole	Laghey		Co. Donegal	760	760
Harbour Lights Nursing Home	Townasligo		Bruckless	Co. Donegal	750	750
Brentwood Manor Nursing Home	Letterkenny Road		Convoy	Co. Donegal	800	800
Brindley Manor Nursing Home	Letterkenny Road		Convoy	Co. Donegal	750	750
Aras Ghaoth Dobhair Nursing Home	Meenaniller		Derrybeg	Co. Donegal	775	775
ake House Nursing Home	Port na Blagh		Dunfanaghy	Co. Donegal	725	725
leach Hill Nursing Home	Lisfannon		Fahan	Co. Donegal	750	750
archview Lodge Nursing Home	Drumany		Letterkenny	Co. Donegal	730	730
fillcrest Nursing Home	Long Lane		Letterkenny	Co. Donegal	740	740
St Eunan's Nursing Home	Ramelton Road		Letterkenny	Co. Donegal	760	760
lazareth House Nursing Home	Faban	Buncrana	Lifford	Co. Donegal	740	740
aras Ui Dhomhaill Nursing Home	Loughnakey		Milford	Co. Donegal	750	750
Co. Galway						
Ballygar Nursing Home Ltd	High Street	Ballygar		Co. Galway	700	700
Bushfield Care Centre	Bushfield	Oranmore		Co. Galway	785	785
Clarenbridge Nursing Home	Ballygarrift	Craughwell		Co. Galway	850	850
Corrandulla Residential Nursing Home	Old Monastery	Corrandulla		Co. Galway	725	725
Gicolgan Nursing Home	Kilcolgan			Co. Galway	800	800
Millrace Nursing Home	Bridge Street	Ballinasloe		Co. Galway	740	740
Oughterard Manor Nursing Home	Camp Street	Oughterard		Co. Galway	785	785
it Marys Nursing Home	Shantalla Road	Galway		Co. Galway	870	870
Flannery's Nursing Home	Kilgarve		Abbeyknockmoy	Co. Galway	794	773
Áras Chois Fharraige	Pairc		An Spidéal	Co. Galway	889	889
Little Flower Nursing Home	Labane		Ardrahan	Co. Galway	775	775

Castleturvin Nursing Home Athenry Co. Galway 000 Maryfield Alzheimer Nursing Home Farnablake Athenry Co. Galway 910 Ballinderry Nursing Home Ballinderry Kilconnell Ballinasloe Co. Galway 775 Central Park Nursing Home Cionberne Village Ballinasloe Co. Galway 775 Garbally View Nursing Home 76 Brackernagh Ballinasloe Co. Galway 665 Hillside Nursing Home Attidermot Aughrim Ballinasloe Co. Galway 675	910 775 775 665 675 785 745 650 685 900
Ballinderry Nursing Home Ballinderry Kilconnell Ballinasloe Co. Gatway 775 Central Park Nursing Home Clonberne Village Ballinasloe Co. Gatway 775 Garbally View Nursing Home 76 Brackernagh Ballinasloe Co. Gatway 665 Hillside Nursing Home Attidermot Aughrim Ballinasloe Co. Gatway 675	775 665 675 785 745 650 685
Central Park Nursing Home Clonberne Village Ballinasloe Co. Galway 775 Garbally View Nursing Home 76 Brackernagh Ballinasloe Co. Galway 665 Hillside Nursing Home Attidermot Aughrim Ballinasloe Co. Galway 675	665 675 785 745 650 685
Garbally View Nursing Home 76 Brackernagh Ballinasloe Co. Galway 665 Hillside Nursing Home Attidermot Aughrim Ballinasloe Co. Galway 675	675 785 745 650 685
Hillside Nursing Home Attidermot Aughrim Ballinasloe Co. Gatway 675	785 745 650 685
	745 650 685
Holy Family Nursing Home Magheramore Killimor Ballinasloe Co. Galway 785	650 685
Kiltormer Nursing Home Kiltormer Ballinasloe Co. Galway 745	685
Nightingale Nursing Home Lowville Ahascragh Ballinasloe Co. Gatway 650	
St Francis Nursing Home Kilkerrin Ballinasloe Co. Galway ⁶⁸⁵	900
Teach Altranais Nursing Home Carna Co. Gatway 900	
Mystical Rose Nursing Home Knockdoemore Claregalway Co. Galway 905	905
Coral Haven Nursing Home Headford Road Galway Co. Galway 900	900
Rushmore Nursing Home Gentian Hill Salthill Galway Co. Galway 840	840
St David's Nursing Home Gentian Hill Salthill Galway Co. Galway 805	805
Rosemount Nursing Home Church Street Gort Co. Galway 720	720
Lough Corrib Nursing Home Kilbeg Pier Headford Co. Galway 726	726
Blake Manor Nursing Home Cloughballymore House Ballinderreen Kilcolgan Co. Gatway 850	850
Mountbellew Nursing Home Treanrevagh Mountbellew Co. Galway 745	745
An Teaghlach Uilinn Retirement & Convalescent Centre Kilrainey Monthean M	780
Moycullen Nursing Home Ballynahallia Moycullen Co. Galway 830	830
Portumna Retirement Village St Brendans Rd Portumna Co. Galway 860	860
Brooklodge Nursing Home Ballyglunin Tuam Co. Galway 867	836
Greenpark Nursing Home Tullinadaly Road Tuam Co. Galway 816	816
Stella Maris Nursing Home Cummer Tuam Co. Galway 750	750
Stella Maris Mulsing Home Commer Toam Co. Galway 700	100
Co. Leitrim	
St Phelim's Nursing Home Dromahaire Co. Leitrim 780	780
Lough Erril Private Nursing Home Mohill Co. Leitrim 775	775

Co. Limerick Abbot Close Nursing Home	Askeaton			Co. Limerick	830	830
Ard Na Ri Nursing Home	Holy Cross	Bruff		Co. Limerick	740	740
Catherine McCauley House Nursing Home	Old Dominic Street			Co. Limerick	845	845
Milford Care Centre	Plassey Park Road	Castletroy		Co. Limerick	885	885
Rosary Hill Nursing Home	Castleconnell			Co. Limerick	770	770
Lir Retirement Home	Tournafulla			Co. Limerick	665	665
Cahermoyle Nursing Home			Ardagh	Co. Limerick	810	810
Roseville House Nursing Home	Killoman		Ballysimon	Co. Limerick	833	833
Beechlodge Nursing Home	Kilmallock Road		Bruree	Co. Limerick	870	870
St Michaels Nursing Home	Ceol Na Habhann	Hundred Acres East	Caherconlish	Co. Limerick	780	780
Thorpes Nursing Home			Clarina	Co. Limerick	695	695
Adare & District Nursing Home	Adare Road		Croagh	Co. Limerick	820	820
Caherass Nursing Home			Croom	Co. Limerick	795	795
Maria Goretti Nursing Home	Proonts		Kilmallock	Co. Limerick	750	750
St Gobnait's Nursing Home	Drewscourt	Ballyragan	Kilmallock	Co. Limerick	700	700
Corbally House Nursing Home	Mill Road	Corbally	Limerick.	Co. Limerick	760	760
Good Counsel Nursing Home	Kilmallock Road		Limerick	Co. Limerick	665	665
St Paul's Nursing Home		Dooradoyle	Limerick	Co. Limerick	845	845
The Park Nursing Home		Castletroy	Limerick	Co. Limerick	889	889
Beechwood Nursing Home	Bothar Bui		Newcastle West	Co. Limerick	800	800
Killeline Nursing Home	Cork Road		Newcastle West	Co. Limerick	840	840
St Catherine's Nursing Home	Bothair Bui		Newcastle West	Co. Limerick	890	890
St Anthony's Nursing Home		Kilduff Castle	Pallasgreen	Co. Limerick	765	765

Co. Mayo

Moyridge Nursing Home Friar's Lodge Nursing Home Ave Maria Nursing Home Brookvale Manor Nursing Home Ti Aire Private Nursing Home Abbeybreaffy Nursing Home Cuan Chaitriona Nursing Home St Annes Nursing Home

St Attractas Nursing Home Claremount Nursing Home Hollymount Nursing Home Blackrocks Nursing Home Ballinamore House Nursing Home Queen of Peace Nursing Home St Brendan's High Support Unit Pilgrim's Rest Nursing Home

Co. Roscommon

Abbey Haven Care Centre & Nursing Home Tearmain Bhride Nursing Home Oakwood Nursing Home Drumderrig Nursing Home Ltd Fearna Manor Nursing Home Costellos Vale View Nursing Home Innis Ree Lodge Nursing Home Shannon Lodge Nursing Home Clover Hill Nursing Home Oakwood Private Nursing Home St Eithne's Rest Care Centre

Plunkett Street		Ballina	Co. Mayo	770	770
Convent Road		Ballinrobe	Co. Mayo	760	760
Tooreen		Ballyhaunis	Co. Mayo	765	765
		Ballyhaunis	Co. Mayo	800	800
Tallagh		Belmullet	Co. Mayo	760	760
Dublin Road		Castlebar	Co. Mayo	895	895
The Lawn		Castlebar	Co. Mayo	920	920
Sonnagh		Charlestown	Co. Mayo	760	760
Hagfield		Charlestown	Co. Mayo	902	902
		Claremorris	Co. Mayo	860	860
Kilrush	Hollymount	Claremorris	Co. Mayo	775	775
The Green		Foxford	Co. Mayo	810	810
Ballinamore		Kiltimagh	Co. Mayo	770	770
	Churchfield	Knock	Co. Mayo	770	770
		Mulranny	Co. Mayo	815	815
Barley Hill		Westport	Co. Mayo	750	750
Carrick Road	Boyle		Co. Roscommon	775	775
Brideswell	Athlone		Co. Roscommon	720	720
Circular Road		Ballaghadereen	Co. Roscommon	735	735
Drumderrig		Boyle	Co. Roscommon	755	755
Tarmon Road		Castlerea	Co. Roscommon	795	795
Ballyleague		Lanesboro	Co. Roscommon	800	800
Ballyleague		Lanesborough	Co. Roscommon	810	810
		Rooskey	Co. Roscommon	758	758
Lisagallon	Cloverhill	Roscommon	Co. Roscommon	866	866
Acres/Ardsallaghmore	Athlone Road	Roscommon	Co. Roscommon	800	800
Tulsk Parish Services		Tulsk	Co. Roscommon	596	596

Co. Sligo

Bailey's Nursing Home Bailymote Community Nursing Unit Ard Na Greine Nursing Home Mowlam Nursing Home Nazareth House Nursing Home Summerville Nursing Home

Co. Tipperary

Ardeen Nursing Home Bushy Park Nursing Home Millbrae Lodge Nursing Home Mount Carmel Nursing Home Patterson's Nursing Home Bramleigh Lodge Nursing Home St Martha's Nursing Home Greenhill's Nursing Home Acom Lodge Nursing Home St Theresa's Nursing Home Cottage Nursing Home Melview House Nursing Home Rathkeevan Nursing Home Woodland's Nursing Home Willowbrook Lodge Nursing Home Deerpark Nursing Home Ashlawn House Nursing Home Nenagh Manor Nursing Home **Rivervale Nursing Home** St Kieran's Nursing Home Villa Marie Nursing Home Bailey House Nursing Home Padre Pio Nursing Home

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	810	810
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n Suir Co. Tipperary	825	825
Co. Tipperary	840	840
Co. Tipperary	785	785
Co. Tipperary	810	810
Co. Tipperary	800	800
Co. Tipperary	860	860
Co. Tipperary	750	750
Co. Tipperary	790	790
Co. Tipperary	815	815
Co. Tipperary	840	840
Co. Tipperary	849	849
Co. Tipperary	720	720
Co. Tipperary		815
Co. Tipperary	760	760
Co. Tipperary	670	670
Co. Tipperary	800	800
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St Theresa's Nursing Home	Dublin Road	Thurles	Co. Tipperary	820	820
Sacre Coeur Nursing Home	Station Rd	Tipperary	Co. Tipperary	790	790