

**Minutes of Regional Health Forum West held on Tuesday,
24th March, 2015 at 2.00pm in Room 1, Education Centre,
HSE Offices, Merlin Park, Galway**

Miontuairiscí Cruinnithe Chinn Bhliana an Fhóiraim Réigiúnach Sláinte, a tionóladh ar an Mháirt 24, Márta
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 Tim Broderick	Cllr Michael Hourigan	Cllr Finola Armstrong-McGuire
Cllr Ciaran Brogan	Cllr Michael Kilcoyne	Cllr Ger Darcy
Cllr Pat Burke	Cllr Paddy Kilduff	Cllr Terry O'Flaherty
Cllr Maria Byrne	Cllr Donagh Killilea	Cllr. P.J. Ryan
Cllr John Carroll	Cllr Bernard McGuinness	Absent
Cllr Lisa Chambers	Cllr Brendan Mulroy	Cllr Henry Kenny
Cllr Michael Collins	Cllr Michael McBride	
Cllr Pádraig Conneely	Cllr Malachy McCreesh	
Cllr Catherine Connolly	Cllr Gerry McMonagle	
Cllr Gerry Crawford	Cllr Ann Norton	
Cllr Michael Creaton	Cllr Seamus O'Boyle	
Cllr Aidan Donohue	Cllr Rosaleen O'Grady	
Cllr David Doran	Cllr Jerome Scanlan	
Cllr Caillian Ellis	Cllr Eamon Scanlon	
Cllr Michael Finnerty	Cllr Brigid Teefy	
Cllr Francis Foley	Cllr Tony Ward	
Cllr Felim Gurn		
Cllr Mary Hoade		

In attendance:

Maurice Power, A/Chief Executive Officer, Saolta University Health Care Group
 Tony Canavan, Chief Operations Officer, Saolta University Health Care Group
 Noreen Spillane, Chief Operations Officer, UL Hospital Group
 John Hayes, Chief Officer, Area 1
 Chris Rudland, Regional Manager, Consumer Affairs
 Caitriona Meehan, Consumer Affairs.
 Marian Cavanagh, Consumer Affairs.
 Norah Owens, Consumer Affairs.

508/56/15 Minutes of previous meeting 24th February, 2015

The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 24th February, 2015 were proposed by Cllr John Carroll, seconded by Cllr. David Doran and adopted.

509/56/15 Matters Arising:

Motion M308: Cllr. C Connolly is seeking additional information on the Merlin Park Imaging centre e.g. terms of lease agreed to end of 2014, the new lease agreement, who is monitoring/ implementing these contracts/leases?

Action: T Canavan to respond to Cllr C Connolly.

510/56/15 Chairman's Address:

The Chairman informed the members of the dates of the Service Plan 2015 briefings and confirmed they would be notified by the Executive in advance of these dates.

511/56/15 Questions:

W56Q1543 – T Canavan agreed to supply Cllr P Conneely with a breakdown of the €829,719.66 paid to rehired retirees and confirmation if this figure includes a pension payment.

W56Q1546 – Action: PCRS to confirm To Cllr P Conneely what is the total amount of money owed by GP's in respect of the capitation payments.

W56Q1547 – Action: B Gloster to revert to Cllr D Killilea to clarify what part of the mental health service plan was not delivered in 2014 due to the returning of €6.1 to central government.

W56Q1549 – Action: B Gloster to confirm if there are any plans in place to reduce the waiting time in Galway/Mayo/Roscommon for the initial appointment to meet a counsellor in the mental health services

W56Q1550 – T Canavan to confirm to Cllr L Chambers if 2007 was the date the CNM3 position was vacated?

W56Q1551 – T Canavan confirmed to Cllr L Chambers that his response was accurate and agreed to assist her with her queries.

W56Q1553 – N Spillane to revert to Cllr. Tom McNamara to outline why 20% of the people treated in Ennis are private in a public hospital?

W56Q1554 – B Gloster to reply to Cllr Pat Burke with an update on the extension to Raheen Community Hospital in Co Clare?

W56Q1558 – T Canavan to revert to Cllr. C Connolly with the exact numbers on the Orthodontic waiting list in Galway.

W56Q1562– Action: N Spillane to revert to Cllr M McCreesh as to what specialities are at the high end of the waiting times?

Also, how many procedures were carried out in UL that could have been performed in Ennis?

W56Q1564 – Action: N Spillane to confirm the exact date of the commencement of the new ED in UL Hospital to Cllr M McCreesh.

W56Q1565 – Action: N Spillane to confirm when was an emergency exercise plan tested in UL Hospital and to revert to Cllr M McCreesh.

W56Q1569 – Action: B Gloster to revert to Cllr. M Hoade with more clarification on the future of Tynagh Health Centre.

W56Q1570 – Action: B Gloster to confirm the timeframe for both phases of the re-location of patients from the CNU to the new High Support Accommodation in St. Brigids in Ballinasloe to Cllr A Donohue.

W56Q1571 – Action: B Gloster to revert to Cllr D Doran and confirm when the CNU in Thurles will be back to full capacity.

512/56/15 – Motions

W56M30 – Cllr. Michael Kilcoyne – System to avoid a person to have already undergoing treatment for specific illness having to be re admitted through hospital ED.

This motion was proposed by Cllr M Kilcoyne, seconded by Cllr. J Carroll and adopted.

W56M31 – Cllr. Paddy Kilduff – Shuttle Bus, South Roscommon

This motion was proposed by Cllr P Kilduff, seconded by Cllr. T Ward and adopted.

Note: Cllr P Kilduff wished to put on the record a special word of thanks to Laura Costello and the staff in Catherine Cunningham’s office for their efforts with this issue.

W56M32 – Cllr. C Connolly - Sexual Assault Unit

On the expiry of the lease, T Canavan agreed to re look at the options of possibly using Merlin Park as a base for a permanent site for the Sexual Assault Unit.

W56M33 – Cllr. C Brogan – National IT System

This motion was proposed by Cllr C Brogan, seconded by Cllr. G Crawford and adopted.

Action: It was agreed unanimously to seek a presentation on this issue for the Regional Health Forum Committee meeting in October 2015.

513/56/15 Any Other Business:

The next **Regional Health Forum Committee** meeting will take place on Tuesday, 28th April, 2015 at 2pm in Limerick.

The next **Regional Health Forum meeting** is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, 26th May, 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 – 26th May 2015

NUMBER	QUESTION	RAISED BY	PAGE NO.
W57Q1577	National Neuro-rehabilitation strategy	Cllr R O'Grady	2
W57Q1578	50 Bed Mental Health Unit in UHG	Cllr T Broderick	2
W57Q1579	Budget for Disability Equipment supplied to CRC	Cllr A Norton	2-3
W57Q1580	Criteria used for entry of child to A&E UL	Cllr A Norton	3
W57Q1581	Support in CAMHS for Minor threatening self harm	Cllr A Norton	3-4
W57Q1582	Heart by- pass waiting list in UL	Cllr A Norton	4
W57Q1583	Amount paid to Northgate Public Service 2012-14	Cllr P Conneely	4
W57Q1584	Capitation Payments to GP's in Galway city & County	Cllr P Conneely	4
W57Q1585	Post of CEO in Saolta	Cllr P Conneely	4-5
W57Q1586	Ambulance base in Loughglynn	Cllr M Creaton	5
W57Q1587	Rosalie Unit in Castlerea, Co. Roscommon	Cllr M Creaton	5
W57Q1588	Embalming Service for Sligo/Leitrim	Cllr E Scanlan	5-6
W57Q1589	Day Care Services - Our Lady's Hospital, Manorhamilton	Cllr E Scanlan	6
W57Q1590	Our Lady's Hospital, Manorhamilton	Cllr F Gurn	6-7
W57Q1591	Our Lady's Day Hospital	Cllr F Gurn	7-8
W57Q1592	North Leitrim Primary & Mental Health Care Centre	Cllr F Gurn	8-9
W57Q1593	Vehicles allocated to Donegal under CAWT scheme	Cllr G Crawford	9
W57Q1594	3 rd Rheumatologist Consultant for Letterkenny General	Cllr G McMonagle	9
W57Q1595	Hot food available in LGH after 5pm	Cllr G McMonagle	9
W57Q1596	Car Parking Charges at LGH	Cllr G McMonagle	9-10
W57Q1597	Laundry Contract at LGH	Cllr M McCreesh	10
W57Q1598	No of Physiotherapists employed across HSE Hospitals	Cllr M McCreesh	10-12
W57Q1599	Tender Review process for new ED in UL	Cllr M McCreesh	12
W57Q1600	Waiting List for Audiology Services in Co Clare	Cllr M McCreesh	12-13
W57Q1601	GP Services in Kilmaley Health Centre	Cllr T McNamara	13
W57Q1602	Warfarin Clinic in Kilrush, Co. Clare	Cllr T McNamara	13
W57Q1603	Out-patients waiting list at LGH	Cllr G Crawford	13
W57Q1604	Suicide prevention Officer in North Tipperary	Cllr D Doran	13-14
W57Q1605	Sacred Heart Hospital, Roscommon	Cllr T Ward	14
W57Q1606	Community Mental Health facilities in Rosalie Unit	Cllr T Ward	14
W57Q1607	Repairs to house at Cloonbrackna, Roscommon	Cllr T Ward	15
W57Q1608	Dialysis Unit at Roscommon County Hospital	Cllr T Ward	15
W57Q1609	Public Health Nurse in Inis Oirr	Cllr C Connolly	15
W57Q1610	Cancelled outpatients appointments	Cllr C Connolly	15-16
W57Q1611	Aras Mhic Dara	Cllr C Connolly	16
W57Q1612	Addiction Counselling Services building in Merlin Park	Cllr C Connolly	16-17
W57Q1613	Bus transportation in Roscommon	Cllr P Kilduff	17
W57Q1614	Plans for Grove Hospital Tuam site	Cllr M Hoade	17-18
W57Q1615	Nurses recruited in Galway since March 2015	Cllr M Hoade	18
W57Q1616	Bullying in the workplace	Cllr M Hoade	18

NUMBER	QUESTION	RAISED BY
W57Q1577	Are there plans to implement government policy regarding the national Neuro-rehabilitation strategy?	Cllr. Rosaleen O'Grady
<p>The National Clinical Programmes for Rehabilitation Medicine and Neurology recognise the crucial role played by community based neurorehabilitation teams. They are seen as a significant component within the continuum of care for patients with neurological illness and injury, including patients with stroke.</p> <p>The Model of Care for the National Clinical Programme for Rehabilitation Medicine, which is currently being finalised post public consultation, details the role, function & benefits of these teams, in line with the recommendations contained within the National Strategy & Policy for Neuro-rehabilitation Services in Ireland 2011-2015. This model of care proposes a 3 tiered model of specialist rehabilitation services namely i.e. complex specialist tertiary services, specialist in-patient rehabilitation units & community based specialist neurorehabilitation teams.</p> <p>A steering group led by the Social Care Division with representation from the National Clinical Programmes for Rehabilitation Medicine and Neurology has been assigned the task of developing an implementation framework for the National Strategy & Policy for Neuro-rehabilitation services. Currently this steering group is in liaison with existing community based Neuro-rehabilitation teams with a view to developing a model of practice which could have national application based on existing best practices</p> <p><i>National Acute Office</i></p>		
W57Q1578	Can I get an update with regard to the completion date of the proposed new 50 bed unit on the grounds of UCHG? Also the likelihood in the intervening period of reopening "the 22 bed unit in Ballinasloe".	Cllr. Tim Broderick
<p>The Main Contractor is on site and has programmed the work to complete the new 50 bed unit on the grounds of UCHG in December 2016.</p> <p>This project is part of the implementation plan for the National Mental Health Policy 'Vision for Change', and there are no plans to reopen the 22 bed unit in Ballinasloe.</p> <p><i>B Gloster, A/Chief Officer, Area 2</i></p>		
W57Q1579	I would like a breakdown of funds received and disability equipment supplied to the Central Remedial Clinic Limerick each year e.g. power chairs, manual chairs, seating etc.	Cllr Ann Norton

Funding Provided to CRC

	Core SLA Funding	Limerick Funding Seating/Repairs	Clare Funding Seating/Repairs	North Tipperary Funding Seating/Repairs
2013	394,231	42,255	11,210	11,240
2014	389,423	10,270	23,071	14,259
2015	354,231	9,010 year to date	90 year to date	933 year to date

Please note:

SLA funding refers to the service as contracted to the CRC by the HSE in respect of **assessment** for specialised seating and assistive technology. In the main, the CRC staff request provision of wheelchairs etc., through the HSE aids and appliances' process. They do not provide the equipment but refer it through other suppliers, as would primary care staff, children's teams, Milford etc.

CRC are also funded through the aids and appliances' budget for repairs and also moulded seating.

Bernard Gloster, Chief Officer, HSE Mid West Community Healthcare

W57Q1580	What criteria is used to establish the age cut off point vis-à-vis to admission to A&E in Limerick Hospital in relation to whether a child is treated in paediatrics or in Adult A&E department and who makes this decision.	Cllr Ann Norton
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The National Emergency Medical Programme states that any child under the age of 16 who presents at the Emergency Department is a paediatric presentation.

Colette Cowan, CEO UL Hospital Group

W57Q1581	Where a minor under CAMHS care is threatening or attempting suicide, what are the procedures in place to ensure a bed is made available in Limerick or Galway Hospital to that child, no matter what time of the day or night it is and that he is not sent home to the care of his parents once the situation has been brought to the attention of the HSE staff.	Cllr Ann Norton
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Children referred to the CAMHS service are assessed on the basis of that referral and a determination is made as what type of assessment / intervention they require and the clinical priority attaching to same is what informs the decision.

Children in the Mid West are responded to including a 24/7 CAMHS on call service through the acute hospital. When any child requires admission, the first preference is to the dedicated CAMHS service inpatient unit in Galway. If the unit has a temporary capacity pressure and cannot respond the child is often admitted to a private facility. They can also be admitted to a paediatric ward or a public adult unit with special staffing arrangements put in place, depending on the circumstances. There are ongoing contacts thereafter between the clinical staff and the Galway Unit as to the earliest time for admission there. This includes the response to children with indicated self-harm. Any child not admitted and discharged to their parent for follow up is a decision made based on their need and not bed availability.

In Galway/Roscommon any Child or Adolescent under the age of 18 presenting with an acute mental health emergency will be assessed by a Psychiatrist. If the child is assessed as requiring Inpatient admission this will be accessed through the 20 bedded Inpatient Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service Unit in Merlin Park Galway.

CAMHS Galway/Roscommon has a child Consultant Psychiatrist available 24 hours a day and the Inpatient Unit admits patients on a 24 hour basis, seven days a week.

Bernard Gloster, Chief Officer, HSE Mid West Community Healthcare

W57Q1582	Can you give a breakdown as to the amount of people on the Heart Bypass waiting list in Mid West on a yearly basis since 2012 to include stint, double or triple bypass and the average and maximum waiting period.	Cllr Ann Norton
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University Hospital Limerick do not hold a waiting list for patients awaiting Heart Bypass as we do not perform this procedure within our hospital group.

Colette Cowan, CEO UL Hospital Group

W57Q1583	What was the amount paid to Northgate Public Service between 2012 and 2014 to install Patient Safety and Care Software for SAOLTA Hospital Group, was there a competitive tendering process, and what was the outcome of the HSE Internal Audit process and was there a conflict of interest by Management in awarding the contract to Northgate?	Cllr. P Conneely
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In November 2014 the Director General requested an internal audit of the procurement of Northgate services by SAOLTA University Health Care Group. The Director General has received the audit and the report is currently under consideration.

T. Canavan, Chief Operating Officer, SAOLTA University Health Care Group

W57Q1584	What is the total amount paid in Capitation Payments to G.P.'s in County Galway and City and the amount paid to each GP in Galway city and county in 2013 and 2014 and is there a payment per patient visit, and is there an extra cost for taking bloods?	Cllr. P Conneely
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Attached herewith is a spreadsheet, with two tab, outlining the CAPITATION fees amounts paid in 2013 and, separately, in 2014 to GPs in Galway city and Galway County. (Appendices attached)

Capitation fees are paid in respect of each eligible person on the medical practitioner's panel at the beginning of each month.

Where the practice based phlebotomy service forms part of the investigation and necessary treatment of a patient's symptoms or condition by the patient's GP, the service should be provided free of charge where the patient is a medical card or GP visit card holder. Circular 011/11 to GPs, dated 21 June 2011, refers.

Kieran Healy, PCRS

W57Q1585	How many applications were made for the position of Chief Executive Officer of the SAOLTA Hospital Group and has the position been filled?	Cllr. P Conneely
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The recruitment process for the position of Group Chief Executive was managed by the Public Appointments Service; therefore it would not be appropriate for the Saolta University Health Care Group to comment on that process. In relation to the position of Chief Executive Officer, Maurice Power's appointment as Group Chief Executive of Saolta University Health Care Group has been extended by the HSE until end December 2016.

T. Canavan, Chief Operating Officer, SAOLTA University Health Care Group

W57Q1586	When is the planned ambulance base in Loughglynn Co Roscommon to become operational as refurbishments are now complete for several months?	Cllr Michael Creaton
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The National Ambulance Service have indicated following extensive consultation with staff that National Ambulance Control will be allocating resources to and from Loughglynn Ambulance Base with effect from the 15th June 2015. In the interim management will continue to be available to discuss any outstanding issues with staff.

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

W57Q1587	What plans are in place for the Rosalie Unit in Castlerea that cares for elderly patients with enduring mental illness	Cllr Michael Creaton
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Galway Roscommon Mental Health Services are committed to the full implementation of the National Policy Vision for Change. This policy along with the final report of the "Expert Review Group" on Community Mental Health Services in Galway Roscommon are the guiding principles in the implementation of a recovery model of care, focused on the service user reaching their maximum potential.

As a result of the recommendations in this report each service user in residential care is being assessed by a multidisciplinary Rehab Team. Following these assessments comprehensive recovery based individual care plans will be formulated with the service user and their family/carers. It is not possible to pre-empt the findings of these assessments however if the identified care requirements for service users results in some residential facilities being no longer viable, service users, carers, staff and all other interested parties will be fully consulted. The HSE will follow the Policy document "HSE Protocol Consultation Policy Document in relation to the

Potential Closure of Public Long Stay Unit."

B Gloster, A/Chief Officer, Area 2

W57Q1588	The loss of a family member is a very stressfully and emotionally time for families which is further exacerbated by the fact that only Embalming Service available for the Sligo Leitrim area is in either Roscommon or Fermanagh. Why is this when there is a state of the art morgue available at Our Lady's Hospital Manorhamilton which was purpose built to relieve pressure on Sligo Regional Hospital? Surely the use of this facility in Manorhamilton would generate much needed revenue for the HSE and would ease the stress on bereaved families in this area	Cllr Eamon Scanlan
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Embalming at Sligo Regional Hospital and other HSE hospitals ceased in 2009. Previous to that public hospital mortuary facilities were being used by commercial entities to undertake embalming. This is not a service provided or funded by the HSE but was provided by commercial entities under contract with recently bereaved families who chose this service. Undertakers carrying out this service were not indemnified under the HSE's Public Liability Policy. The carrying out such work is also not permitted under the hospital's Care of the Deceased Policy. Sligo Regional Hospital and Our Lady's Hospital therefore discontinued facilitating this service in 2009 and relevant staff and undertakers were advised accordingly at the time.

T. Canavan, Chief Operating Officer, SAOLTA University Health Care Group

W57Q1589	Can the HSE clarify the up to date position in relation to ongoing Day Care Services at Our Lady's Hospital, Manorhamilton	Cllr Eamon Scanlan
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Services at Our Lady's Hospital in Manorhamilton will be enhanced.

Currently an integrated Social Day Care service operates at the Bee Park Community Centre, Manorhamilton.

This will be extended to older people in the North Leitrim/West Cavan area on a five day week basis.

This will benefit older people in the North Leitrim/West Cavan area as it will ensure that they have day care in the most appropriate setting for their needs.

In conjunction with this the Day Hospital, Manorhamilton will also have new clinics focused on memory-loss and falls.

In 2014 The Day Hospital secured €100,000 funding from GENIO to provide an outreach service for people with dementia which includes increased respite in the home and a telecare package. A recently appointed Consultant Geriatrician, at Sligo Regional Hospital, (Dr Grainne O'Malley) attends the Day Hospital weekly providing a Multidisciplinary Team Clinic at which older people have comprehensive assessments and treatments.

There will also be increased nursing and medical assessments at the Day Hospital on an outreach basis for older persons ensuring earlier discharge from Sligo Regional Hospital and support for older people to remain in their own home.

John Hayes, CHO, Area 1

W57Q1590	<p><u>Our Lady's Hospital at Manorhamilton:</u></p> <p>This 35 bed unit caters for geriatric patients and has traditionally provided exemplary much needed respite care. Unfortunately staffing levels at the unit are, I believe, at an unacceptably low level.</p> <p>Ten ancillary staff are on long term sick leave and they have not been replaced by temporary or agency workers. The remaining workers are now faced with having to complete mandatory 12 hour shifts in the struggle to look after their patients. The staff are only allowed a 50 minute lunch break and two other 30 minute breaks during their 12 hour period on duty. At night, there are occasions when only one qualified nurse is on duty. Where patients require injections I understand that it is best practise, if not a legal requirement, that at least two members of the nursing profession should be present when these injections are being administered. Can you advise if under health and safety procedures two nurses should always be present when these injections are being given?</p> <p>Further, can the HSE clarify if they can guarantee that the hospital will be maintained as a standalone unit or merely a step down adjunct of Sligo General Hospital?</p> <p>On a related item, I am glad to see that the canteen facilities for both staff and visitors which had been greatly reduced has now been restored. Can the HSE confirm that the canteen/catering facilities will not again be withdrawn?</p>	Cllr. Felim Gurn
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Our Lady's Hospital, Manorhamilton (OLHM), Co. Leitrim provides rehabilitation, convalescence, assessment, palliative and respite care to older people over 65 years in the catchment area of North Leitrim/West Cavan. The facility is both a stand- alone unit accepting respite and GP admissions. It is also a step down service for the acute Hospital sector. Our Lady's Hospital, Manorhamilton provides a significant service to the local community allowing older people to complete their care after initial treatment in the acute sector. In relation to staffing, absenteeism is actively managed in Our Lady's Hospital as with all services in the HSE and Our Lady's Hospital Manorhamilton has always had a good track record of low absenteeism. In relation to staffing levels in general, the numbers of staff on day duty never go below the accepted norms and levels for the provision of care for older persons. In relation to night duty staffing levels we make every

effort to ensure that the appropriate number of Registered General Nurses (RGN) and Health Care Assistants (HCA) are rostered. On two occasions where we have difficulty with staffing, we ensured that safe care was provided. There is also a senior nurse manager on-call for the Hospital each night. It is the policy of the Hospital that medication for injection is checked by two RGN'S prior to administration. On the nights in question this policy was adhered too.

In relation to rostering arrangements, twelve hour shifts are the norm at OLHM. The rosters were negotiated with staff representative bodies and no mandatory twelve hour shifts were ever imposed on staff in OLHM. In terms of scheduled breaks we are currently fully complying with the working time act 1997.

Due to the staffing levels the canteen facilities were temporarily reduced for staff while prioritised at all times for our patients meals. At all times soup, salad and sandwiches were available for staff. The Hospital cannot guarantee that such a contingency plan may have to be enacted the future.

John Hayes, CHO, Area 1

W57Q1591	<p><u>Our Lady's Day Hospital:</u></p> <p>The situation at Our Ladies Day Hospital is also a cause of concern. The level of service on offer has been reduced with many older and more vulnerable attendees at the centre not bothering to attend due to the perception that the reduction in services will eventually result in the Centre's closure. Can the HSE advise what the future plans for the Centre are?</p>	Cllr. Felim Gurn
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There is no reduction at the Day service at Our Lady's Hospital, Manorhamilton. All clients registered at the Day Hospital are attending. We are endeavouring to provide a social care model in a non-medical environment appropriate to the attendees needs. The service is being enhanced for those who require a higher level of Medical and Nursing intervention. There will be the development of clinics to manage falls, dementia, and other chronic diseases.

John Hayes, CHO, Area 1

W57Q1592	<p><u>North Leitrim Primary and Mental Health Care Centre:</u></p> <p>The recently opened North Leitrim Primary and Mental Health Care Centre at Manorhamilton is a welcome addition to the medical needs of the people of the greater Manorhamilton area. However, I believe clarification is required regarding the precise role of the Health Centre in the community. My understanding is that it was to offer an alternative to people having to attend Sligo General Hospital Outpatient Department for minor medical procedures, thus alleviating the pressures on overworked staff there. According to a statement released by the HSE on the occasion of the Centre's official opening in May last year "this primary and mental health care centre will</p>	Cllr. Felim Gurn
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	<p>allow the public to have easy access to an increased range of services based in the one location, close to home. It is hoped that only those who require the specialist services available in an acute hospital will need to go to the hospital setting.”</p> <p>I am aware of a number of people who tried to receive treatment there for non life threatening procedures being refused on the grounds that they were not registered patients of the doctors in attendance at the centre. Can the HSE advise what is the centre's precise role regarding the treatment of patients who are not registered patients of the Centre's doctors?</p>	
<p>The following are the services which are available at the centre:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Health Nursing • General Practitioner/Practice Nursing • Occupational Therapy • Dental Clinics • Psychology Clinics • Speech & Language Therapy Clinics • Addiction Counselling • Cognitive Behavioural Therapy • Community Mental Health Team Clinics • Psychiatry of Old Age Clinics <p>There is a wide range of services available in the centre and all of the above are available by referral and appointment from the relevant service.</p> <p>The centre is not set up to provide a Minor Injuries Unit or a 24/7 on call facility whereby patients who are not registered with the GP could avail of a service, this service continues to be available from the Emergency Department at Sligo Regional Hospital. Weekend services are available for service users of the Community Mental Health Team who provide services over a 7 day period.</p> <p>John Hayes, CHO, Area 1</p>		
W57Q1593	<p>How many and what of class of vehicles were allocated to Donegal under the CWAT Cross border scheme? For what purpose were they to be used? How often have they been used for this purpose? Where are they kept now and is any fee involved?</p>	Cllr. Gerry Crawford
<p>(a) The vehicles were assigned to the National Ambulance Service (not Donegal). This was a joint initiative between both jurisdictions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four Ford Rangers • Three Ford Transit Minibuses • One Ford Iveco 4.5 tonne lorry. <p>(b) These vehicles were to be used for a cross border emergency response.</p>		

(c) They have been 3 cross border emergency exercises.

(d) They are stored at Ambulance bases in Donegal and Sligo. There is no cost.

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

W57Q1594	What is the Saolta Group doing to outline the need for a 3rd Consultant Rheumatologist to be based at Letterkenny General Hospital to support the Rheumatology Service in the North West to include Donegal, Sligo/Leitrim and Mayo area?	Cllr Gerry McMonagle
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Sligo General Hospital has submitted a proposal for third consultant posts which will include provision of out-reach clinics in L/K in the job plan. The end result will be a three-person team in Galway covering the south of Saolta Group and a three-person team in Sligo covering the northern end. SGH is awaiting a decision on this proposal.

T. Canavan, Chief Operating Officer, SAOLTA University Health Care Group

W57Q1595	Has Letterkenny General Hospital any plans to make hot food/ Beverages available to the public who have to attend the A&E after 5pm?	Cllr Gerry McMonagle
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A new National Vending contract, which includes healthy eating options, was awarded recently and we are currently introducing these new machines on a phased basis. The new contract will include the introduction of a hot beverage vending machine.

T. Canavan, Chief Operating Officer, SAOLTA University Health Care Group

W57Q1596	Can we have a breakdown of the monies raised through Car Parking Charges at Letterkenny General Hospital in 2012, 2013 and 2014 and how that money was divided out between Letterkenny General Hospital and Euro Car Parks and what that money was spent on within the hospital?	Cllr Gerry McMonagle
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All of the profits from car parking at LGH are re -invested in the Hospital. Since Euro Carparks started managing the site in October 2001, we have invested all of these monies in the creation of extra car park spaces, the upgrading of security systems including the installation of CCTV, the installation of an access control system and the ongoing maintenance of car parks on the campus. The Hospital is about to go to tender for this service and details of income received is commercially sensitive at this time.

T. Canavan, Chief Operating Officer, SAOLTA University Health Care Group

W57Q1597	How much money was saved by Letterkenny General Hospital by out sourcing the Laundry Contract, who has the current contract, and how long is it for and what is the cost of that contract?	Cllr Gerry McMonagle
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Following a formal Hospital Accreditation review of the Laundry and Linen Services a number of years ago; it was discovered that the facilities did not meet safe and efficient work environment standards. It became obvious that there was an urgent need to upgrade the building and equipment in the Laundry. It was estimated that an investment of over €5 million over three years was needed to upgrade the building and equipment. This was not an option given the

financial environment: therefore the option of outsourcing was pursued.

A competitive tendering process was undertaken to award a contract to deliver clean linen to all hospital departments and for ensuring that adequate supplies of clean linen are available at all times for patients and staff.

In July 2011 National Procurement Services awarded the contract to CWS Boco to provide Linen Services to the hospital for a 3 year period. The details of any contract is commercially sensitive information and is confidential between both parties. This contract was re-advertised in 2014 and CWS Boco were awarded the contract from July 2014 for a 3 year period.

A number of savings associated with the closing of the laundry department. including the following:

- 1) Non Pay savings of €280k per annum
- 2) Four members of staff retired saving €150k approx.
- 3) A number of staff transferred to Health Care Assistant roles within the hospital therefore helping in the provision of patient care.
- 4) All the staff in the Laundry department were transferred into vacancies across a number of services therefore reducing the need to employ additional staff.

T. Canavan, Chief Operating Officer, SAOLTA University Health Care Group

W57Q1598	How many Physiotherapists are employed across the HSE West Hospitals and what is the waiting time for patients requiring the services? Can I be provided with a breakdown per hospital site?	Cllr Malachy McCreesh
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University Hospitals Limerick (Dooradoyle , Croom , Maternity)

Total WTE: 26.5

Waiting Lists: Trauma/ Orthopaedics/ED (same day service)

Paediatric OPD No wait time

Breast Clinic No wait time

Prostate Clinic No Wait time

Cystic Fibrosis Adults & Paeds No wait time

Occ Health Referrals (Staff) 2-4 weeks

Women's Health (4-6 months Incontinence)

Pulmonary Rehab 6 months

Nenagh Hospital

3.3 based at Nenagh hospital (approx 0.7 of this does primary care work)

1.8 Musculoskeletal Specialist Physiotherapists based between Nenagh, Croom and now Ennis.

0.8 Cardiac rehab physiotherapist.

Total WTE : 5.9

Waiting time differs depending on the requirements of the client/service user and the staffing levels of the hospital, annual leave etc.

Approximately the following applies:

Inpatients are generally seen on the day of referral or the next day.

Musculoskeletal out patients are prioritised using the Brunswick Scale P1 P2 P3. P1's wait on average 7 to 21 days. Boots and Braes fitted immediately as required. Our longest waiters (P3's) are currently 17 to 20 weeks.

Pulmonary Rehab patients wait approximately 16-20 weeks

Falls Prevention Programme patients wait approximately 8 weeks

Musculoskeletal Triage patients wait times are very much consultant led with the longest waiters approximately 40 weeks.

Ennis Hospital

In relation to Ennis Hospital, there are 4 WTEs.


The waiting times vary according to what physiotherapy service they are waiting for.

The longest waiting time at present for 1:1 outpatient physiotherapy is 10 weeks

The waiting time for pulmonary rehabilitation is approx 16 weeks

The waiting time for the bone health programme is approx 24 weeks

Colette Cowan, CEO UL Hospital Group

	PHYSIO	MANAGE	SENIOR &		TOTAL
	IN CHARGE	R	CL SPECIALIST	BASIC	
GUH	1	2	29.5	29.13	61.63
LGH	1		9.98	2.62	13.6
MGH		1	7.43	8.89	17.32
PHB		1	5.86	1	7.86
RCH			1.6	1	2.6
SRH (incl OLH)	1	1.86	16.28	5.9	25.04
TOTAL	3	5.86	70.65	48.54	128.05

Letterkenny General Hospital

Our average acute outpatient waiting time is 24 days and routine is 99 days. Regarding our inpatient service we review patients within 24 hours of referral on average.

Portiuncula Hospital, Ballinasloe

GP Waiting Time: Urgent = 20 days; Routine = 176 days

Consultant Waiting Time: Urgent = 20 days; Routine = 176 days

Galway University Hospitals

- Waiting time (urgent) 15 Days
- Waiting time (routine) 105 Days

Mayo General Hospital

There are different waiting times for the different specialities and the longest waiting time is included:

Acute Musculoskeletal = 21 days (27/04/15)

Routine Musculoskeletal = 393 days (9/04/14)

Routine Women's Health = 300 days (17/07/14)

Paediatrics = 42 days (18/02/15)

Urgent appointments are available within 5-7 days.

Sligo Regional Hospital

The wait times are as follows:

8-10 days Urgent outpatient referrals

11-17 day's Routine outpatient referrals

Roscommon Hospital

Currently the waiting times for outpatient physiotherapy services are approximately 12-14 weeks.

T. Canavan, Chief Operating Officer, SAOLTA University Health Care Group

W57Q1599	Has the tender review process with regard to the new Emergency Department at University Hospital Limerick been completed and has the successful contractor provided an exact date for the commencement of works?	Cllr Malachy McCreesh
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The tender review process is progressing but not yet finalised. The exact date of the commencement of the new ED at UHL will be dependent on the successful contractor's programme at contract award stage and so unfortunately we are not yet in a position to advise of an exact date for commencement of these works.

Colette Cowan, CEO UL Hospital Group

W57Q1600	I call on the HSE West to outline how many adults are currently on the waiting list for Audiology services in County Clare and what length of time are those people currently on the waiting list. Also what is HSE West's policy in relation to public representatives making enquiries re their constituents on this waiting list.	Cllr. Tom McNamara
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The Adult Audiology Waiting list is as per figures below (up to the end of April 2015):

Age category	Longest waiting time in weeks	No of clients on waiting list
Under 65	77	63
Over 65	90	168

Public representatives are entitled to make representations on behalf of any service user on the understanding that they have the consent of the service user.

Bernard Gloster, Chief Officer, HSE Mid West Community Healthcare

W57Q1601	I call on the HSE West under the proposed review of the GMS contracts to review the GMS areas in County Clare and in particular the Kilmaley Health Care Centre which is only 7 kms from Ennis and is currently under the Kildysart GP who is 20 kms away. (This Health Care Centre has had no GP presence for the past 3 Mths.)	Cllr. Tom McNamara
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The GP, who was providing services to the Kilmaley Health Centre, recently passed away. The HSE will be advertising this post the week after the June Bank Holiday weekend and will review where services are provided to by this post holder. In the interim, locum arrangements have been put in place.

It would not be possible to revise the existing list and split Kilmaley from Kildysart as this would not attract any applicant.

Bernard Gloster, Chief Officer, HSE Mid West Community Healthcare

W57Q1602	What plans has the CEO of the UL Hospital Group in place for the Warfarin Clinic in Kilrush which the people of west Clare who require this service depend on.	Cllr. Tom McNamara
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There has been a full review of the Warfarin Service in Co. Clare. As a result of the review, this service will now be delivered on the Ennis Site with an extension of the Warfarin clinic from one clinic a week to three clinics/week. Governance is being provided by a consultant physician with an established process of review of all patients. In consultation with the patient, their GP and their consultant, patients are availing of a range of options:

- Self management at home
- GP managed
- Attending the Warfarin clinic in Ennis
- Some patients are opting for the new oral anti-coagulants

Colette Cowan, CEO UL Hospital Group

W57Q1603	With over 16.220 people on the outpatients waiting list at Letterkenny General Hospital, 5,500 of those waiting for over a year to see a consultant. Will the HSE acknowledge that it is failing in its duty of care to these people	Cllr. Gerry Crawford
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Letterkenny General Hospital is currently working through a process to ensure that no routine referral is waiting longer than 18 months by the end of June.

All referrals are divided into two categories, urgent and routine. All urgent referrals get priority appointments. Routine referrals are appointed in chronological order. Where a situation arises where a patient's condition changes, then the referring GP can contact the accepting consultant to have their referral re-triaged and to prioritise the patient.

<i>T. Canavan, Chief Operating Officer, SAOLTA University Health Care Group</i>		
W57Q1604	Does the HSE currently have a dedicated full time suicide prevention officer for North Tipperary?	Cllr. David Doran
<p>There is currently one Resource Officer for Suicide Prevention appointed to the Mid West Area. This is a regional post covering Limerick, Clare and Tipperary North.</p> <p>This Resource Officer supports the work of the National Office for Suicide Prevention to ensure the effective delivery of the new National Strategic Framework for Suicide Prevention 2015-2018.</p> <p>The Mid West Resource Officer for Suicide Prevention co-ordinates the regional suicide prevention advisory group and the development of the regional action plan in line with the new “National Framework for Suicide Prevention” developed within the policy context of Healthy Ireland and Vision for Change.</p> <p>The purpose of this post is to engage with other divisions and inter-sectoral groups and stakeholders to support a more co-ordinated and integrated suicide prevention service delivery and mental health promotion. They also assist with the development and implementation of new suicide prevention responses and services.</p> <p><i>Bernard Gloster, Chief Officer, HSE Mid West Community Healthcare</i></p>		
W57Q1605	Can the HSE provide an update on the timeframe for the refurbishment of the Sacred Heart Hospital in Roscommon, which will bring it up to a standard that will comply with HIQA requirements in 2016? Also how many beds are planned for the hospital when the refurbishment is completed?	Cllr. Tony Ward
<p>HSE Estates are to develop a plan for SHH in the context of complying with HIQA requirements. The planning process is expected to be completed in the next 2-3 months. The plan will identify the bed capacity that can be accommodated. Estates will then apply to the National Capital Steering group for the funding required for the refurbishment.</p> <p><i>Bernard Gloster, A/Chief Officer, Area 2</i></p>		
W57Q1606	Can the HSE Executive inform the members of the forum of the future plans for Community Mental Health facilities at the Rosalie unit in Castlerea?	Cllr. Tony Ward
<p>Galway Roscommon Mental Health Services are committed to the full implementation of the National Policy Vision for Change. This policy along with the final report of the “Expert Review Group” on Community Mental Health Services in Galway Roscommon are the guiding principles in the implementation of a recovery model of care, focused on the service user reaching their maximum potential.</p> <p>As a result of the recommendations in this report each service user in residential care is being</p>		

assessed by a multidisciplinary Rehab Team. Following these assessments comprehensive recovery based individual care plans will be formulated with the service user and their family/carers. It is not possible to pre-empt the findings of these assessments however if the identified care requirements for service users results in some residential facilities being no longer viable, service users, carers, staff and all other interested parties will be fully consulted. The HSE will follow the Policy document "HSE Protocol Consultation Policy Document in relation to the Potential Closure of Public Long Stay Unit."

B Gloster, A/Chief Officer, Area 2

W57Q1607	Can the HSE inform members of the forum of when repairs will be completed on the house at Cloonbrackna, Roscommon which was used by the HSE for community care residents up to Christmas 2014.	Cllr. Tony Ward
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The works are currently being costed and a start date has yet to be confirmed.

B Gloster, A/Chief Officer, Area 2

W57Q1608	Can the Minister for Health and the HSE Executive provide the necessary funding to install a dialysis unit at Roscommon County Hospital?	Cllr. Tony Ward
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There are no plans for a dialysis unit in Roscommon Hospital. Roscommon patients would normally attend Merlin Park Dialysis unit or if from North Roscommon they may go to Sligo Regional Hospital.

T. Canavan, Chief Operating Officer, SAOLTA University Health Care Group

W57Q1609	In relation to the failure to appoint a full time public health nurse to Inis Oirr for over one year now and in view of the commitment given at the previous Health Forum Meeting that this post would be filled please clarify as a matter of urgency what progress has been made including the nature of the advertisement recruitment process and whether a public health nurse has been appointed or is to be appointed.	Cllr. Catherine Connolly
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A Public Health Nurse has been appointed to the post on Inis Oirr and she will commence in July. She will be in attendance 3 days per week. There is a resident GP service on the island on the other 2 days. The nurse is a native Irish speaker and will provide seirbhísi trí Gaeilge.

B Gloster, A/Chief Officer, Area 2

W57Q1610	In addition to the outpatient clinic for patients in receipt of treatment for cancer which was cancelled for 40 patients on Tuesday the 28 th April, please clarify what other out-patient clinics were cancelled since January 2015 to date because of lack of staff specifying the breakdown of staff necessary to run the clinics in question and avoid cancellations and what steps have been taken to remedy the situation.	Cllr. Catherine Connolly
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Oncology Clinics Reduced or Cancelled since January 2015

SPECIALITY	CLINIC TYPE	NO OF CL REDUCED JAN15-DATE	NO OF PTS Cancelled JAN-15- DATE
Oncology	MAIN ONCOLOGY CL	19	486
Oncology	REGISTAR LED CLINIC	9	27
Oncology	MAIN ONCOLOGY CL	6	10
Oncology	JOINT LUNG CLINIC	16	29
Oncology	MAIN ONCOLOGY CLINIC	21	216
Oncology	REGISTAR CLINIC	2	2
Oncology	MAIN ONCOLOGY CLINIC	18	92
Oncology	REGISTAR CLINIC	4	4

Staffing.

There are currently 4 vacancies in this area; replacement posts have been recruited and will be in place by **July 2015**.

Additional staff have also been recruited which will facilitate greater clinic capacity.

- Registrar X 1
- Tutor X 0.5 (to facilitate undergrad and post grad education).
- Intern X 1

The recruitment of these posts has been completed and is currently going through the registration process; all posts will be in place by July 2015. Full clinic capacity will be restored in July 2015.

All patients have been offered an alternative OPD appointment date, some of whom have been seen already and others have been offered a definitive clinic date in the future, with the exception of 64 patients some of whom are awaiting test results before a definite appointment date can be scheduled for them.

T. Canavan, Chief Operating Officer, SAOLTA University Health Care Group

W57Q1611	Please clarify the position in relation to the refurbishment works at Aras Mhic Dara giving time frame for completion of same and whether the full complement of nursing and care staff have now been recruited (including the breakdown of staff)and if not what positions remain to be filled and where the recruitment process is at in this regard	Cllr. Catherine Connolly
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The refurbishment of Aras MacDara commenced in mid March and we expect it will be completed in Q1 2016. The full complement of Nursing staff is 18 WTE and the full complement of Multi Task Attendants is 34.5WTE.

4 Nursing posts were advertised and we were successful in filling 1 of them. 3 Nursing posts remain vacant. We continue to run local competitions in an effort to fill these posts on a permanent basis.

3 Intern Multi Task Attendants have been successfully recruited.

B Gloster, A/Chief Officer, Area 2

W57Q1612	Please clarify the position in relation to the building which burned down in Merlin Park, when it burned down, the progress made if any since then including where the services provided there are now provided and the HSE West plans in regard to this site and in particular whether it is intended to rebuild and return the services or not.	Cllr. Catherine Connolly
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The building in Merlin Park from which Addiction Counselling Services were delivered was damaged beyond repair in September 2013. It was demolished and the site was cleared for Health and Safety reasons soon afterwards.

Since then, Galway / Roscommon Mental Health Services have undergone reconfiguration in the way in which services are delivered in keeping with 'Vision for Change', the National Mental Health policy. This means that services are being provided through community-based multi-disciplinary Consultant-led teams which include service provision for people with mental health difficulties and co-morbid addiction problems.

As part of this process, the Addiction Counsellors that were based in Merlin Park are now working as an integral part of these Community Mental Health Teams (CMHT) and continue to provide an Addiction Counselling Service to both in-patients in the Dept. of Psychiatry, UHG, and to out-patients by means of domiciliary and out-patient clinics in the communities for people who live in their respective CMHT geographical areas.

One of the Addiction Counsellors who was based in Merlin Park is currently based with the CMHT in the La Nua building in Ballybane with the GR3 Sector CMHT. This team covers the Oranmore/Headford/Gort area. The other Addiction Counsellor is temporarily based in an office in Merlin Park Hospital until the purpose-built CMHT base for the GR1 CMHT is operational. This team covers West Galway and the HSE is currently considering suitable sites.

The HSE continues to provide addiction services in Dominick Street in Galway City for people with addiction problems and works in close collaboration with PCCC taking referrals from GPs and Allied Health Professionals. These patients are offered an out-reach service in their community.

As a consequence of these developments, there is no requirement to rebuild in order to provide these services. The future of the site will be considered in the context of the Spatial Development Plan for Merlin Park and overall requirements for accommodation.

B Gloster, A/Chief Officer, Area 2

W57Q1613	At present there is a disparity in the provision of day care transportation services in County Roscommon. When will the HSE provide a county wide transportation service to day care facilities in County Roscommon?	Cllr. Paddy Kilduff
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Roscommon PCCC provides bus transportation to Day Centres in Roscommon from as many areas as possible, within available resources. Current bus services are provided, on a prioritised basis, within the Older Peoples Service Budget. Should future funding allocations allow, Roscommon

PCCC will extend bus service to further areas on a prioritised basis?		
<i>B Gloster, A/Chief Officer, Area 2</i>		
W57Q1614	What Plans are in place for the Site of the Grove hospital in Tuam? Please give timeframes.	Cllr. Mary Hoade
<p>The Galway Roscommon Area has received approval for a project proposal to develop a Mental Health Day Hospital and Community Mental Health Team base on this site. A procurement process is underway for the appointment of a Design Team from an existing Framework Panel of approved Design Consultants. It is anticipated that the Design Team will be appointed in the autumn of 2015. Its first task will be to prepare an overall Development Plan for the site incorporating elements of the existing facility.</p> <p>A proposal has also been submitted to the National Capital Steering Group to develop appropriate accommodation for staff in Disabilities services working in Early Intervention and School Age Teams. We are awaiting funding approval for this proposal.</p> <p>We anticipate that Tuam Primary Care Centre will commence construction during Quarter 4 of 2015 on part of the Grove site. This is part of the national Public Private Partnership programme to develop Primary Care Centres across the country. We have not yet been given a completion date. The usual completion time is 15-18 months.</p>		
<i>B Gloster, A/Chief Officer, Area 2</i>		
W57Q1615	How many nurses have been recruited since our last meeting? What other plans are in place for recruitment of nurses. The INO have indicated there is 13.	Cllr. Mary Hoade
<p>33 nursing posts in have been filled in Galway University Hospitals since the last Regional Health Forum meeting on 24th March, 2015.</p> <p>There are ongoing recruitment campaigns for staff nurse and promotional nursing grades Clinical Nurse Manager 1, 2, 3, Nurse Practice Development Co-Ordinators, Director of Public Health Nursing etc currently underway. New national campaigns are planned for the summer for Staff Nurse Mental Health, Staff Nurse Intellectual Disability, Staff Midwife and Staff Nurse Children. An international recruitment campaign, targeting the UK in the first instance, is being launched in June with a special focus on bringing Irish trained Nurses back to Ireland. Specialist Staff Nurse posts in theatre and ICU in Galway have already been filled by international recruitment and further appointees will arrive during the summer.</p>		
<i>Francis Rogers, Asst National Director, Human Resources</i>		
W57Q1616	A national survey showed 13 per cent increase in bullying in workplace. Among the respondents 6 percent nurses and midwives reported bullying on a regular basis. Have we as a hospital group a plan in place to deal with the frightening results of this survey	Cllr. Mary Hoade
<p>The Saolta University Health Care Group promotes the Dignity at Work Policy of the HSE through the Induction process for new staff, including giving a copy of the policy in the Induction Pack.</p> <p>In addition to the Induction Programme there are training sessions on the Policy held regularly throughout</p>		

the year in the various hospital sites (some in collaboration with the unions) and on an ongoing basis to promote awareness of the Policy for existing staff and managers, emphasising their roles and responsibilities.

A list of Contact Support Persons is displayed in various locations on all hospital sites and this information, along with the Policy, is disseminated by email to staff throughout the hospital.

We monitor complaints to establish if there is a bullying or harassment element and any such complaints are processed in accordance with the Dignity at Work Policy.

T. Canavan, Chief Operating Officer, SAOLTA University Health Care Group