

**Minutes of Regional Health Forum West held on Tuesday,
26th May, 2015 at 2.00pm in Room 1, Education Centre,
HSE Offices, Merlin Park, Galway**

Miontuairiscí Cruinnithe Chinn Bhliana an Fhórait Réigiúnach Sláinte, a tionóladh ar an Mháirt 26, Bealtaine,
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 Mary Hoade	Cllr Donagh Killilea
Cllr Tim Broderick	Cllr Michael Hourigan	Cllr. Bernard McGuinness
Cllr Ciaran Brogan	Cllr Michael Kilcoyne	
Cllr Pat Burke	Cllr. Paddy Kilduff	Absent
Cllr Maria Byrne	Cllr Brendan Mulroy	Cllr Henry Kenny
Cllr John Carroll	Cllr Michael McBride	Cllr Ger Darcy
Cllr Lisa Chambers	Cllr Malachy McCreesh	
Cllr Michael Collins	Cllr Gerry McMonagle	
Cllr Pádraig Conneely	Cllr Ann Norton	
Cllr Catherine Connolly	Cllr Terry O'Flaherty	
Cllr Gerry Crawford	Cllr Seamus O'Boyle	
Cllr Michael Creaton	Cllr Rosaleen O'Grady	
Cllr Aidan Donohue	Cllr. P.J. Ryan	
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		

In attendance:

Tony Canavan, Chief Operations Officer, Saolta University Health Care Group
Josephine Hynes, Director of HR, UL Hospital Group
Bernard Gloster, A/ Chief Officer, Area 2
Marian Cavanagh, Regional Health Forum Office
Norah Owens, Regional Health Forum Office

Apologies:

Mr. Maurice Power, CEO Saolta Hospital Care Group
Colette Cowan, CEO, UL Hospital Group

514/57/15 Minutes of previous meeting 24th February, 2015

The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 24th March, 2015 were proposed by Cllr PJ Ryan, seconded by Cllr. David Doran and adopted.

515/57/15 Matters Arising:

Merlin Park Imaging Centre: Cllr. C Connolly requested a copy of the new lease agreement when it is finalised.

Action: T Canavan to respond to Cllr C Connolly when the lease is finalised.

SATU: Cllr C Connolly requested T Canavan to explore Merlin Park as a possible site for the Sexual Assessment Treatment Unit in advance of the expiry of the current lease.

Dedicated Telephone Number for PCRS:

Action: B Gloster agreed to contact Mr. John Hennessy, National Director of Primary Care to request a meeting with the four Chairpersons of the Regional Health Fora to come to an agreement to providing a dedicated telephone number for all county councillors to use to contact PCRS on behalf of their constituents.

W56Q1543: Cllr P Conneely requested additional information to the follow up he received.

Action: T Canavan/F Rogers to supply Cllr. Conneely with the cost of pension paid to the rehired retirees and if this is in addition to the €829, 719 figure.

516/57/15 Chairman's Address:

It was agreed to take the questions from the Galway county councillors first at the meeting to allow the mayor and the councillors to attend the opening of the new chamber in the Galway County Council building.

The Chairman proposed and it was agreed by all councillors present to defer the next Regional Health Forum meeting (AGM) by one week to 30th June, 2015.

517/57/15 Questions:

W57Q1579 – Disability Equipment

Action: B Gloster agreed to confirm the number of Seating/Repairs for Clare for year to date and to revert directly to Cllr. Ann Norton.

	Core SLA Funding	Limerick Funding Seating/Repairs	Clare Funding Seating/Repairs	North Tipperary Funding Seating/ Repairs
2015	354,231	9,010 year to date	90 year to date	933 year to date

W57Q1581 – Support in CAMHS for minor threatening self harm

Action: B Gloster agreed to meet the parent of the child referred to with Cllr Norton to discuss the case if this is required.

W57Q1586 – Ambulance base in Loughglynn

Action: P O'Riordan to revert to Cllr. M Creton if there is any change to the proposed date of 15th June, 2015.

W57Q1587 & Q1606 – Rosalie Centre, Castlerea, Co. Roscommon

Action: B Gloster agreed to visit the Rosalie Unit in Castlerea and to link with the three Roscommon councillors after the visit.

W57Q1588 – Embalming Service for Sligo/Leitrim

Action: T Canavan to check where the embalming is carried out in Roscommon and to revert directly to Cllr. E Scanlan.

W57Q1591 – Our Lady's Hospital, Manorhamilton

Action: J Hayes to revert to Cll F Gurn on the facilities at Our Lady's Hospital, Manorhamilton.

W57Q1593 – Vehicle allocated to Donegal under CAWT scheme

Action: P O'Riordan to revert to Cllr. G Crawford as to why these vehicles are not used widely in the Ambulance fleet?

W57Q1596 – Car Parking Charges at LGH

Action: T Canavan to revert to Cllr. G McMonagle once the tender process is complete with the details of the successful tender.

W56Q1599 – Tender Review process for new ED in UL

Action: CEO, UL Hospital Group to revert to Cllr. M. McCreesh with the exact date of commencement of the Emergency Department at University Hospital Limerick is available.

W56Q1604 – National Suicide Statistics

Action: RHF Office to revert to Cllr. D. Doran with statistics on suicide county by county basis.

DEFERRED QUESTIONS:

Questions Q1610 to Q1613 will be listed as the first question for the June meeting due to the absence of the manager to respond and there was no longer a quorum at the meeting.

518/57/15 – Motions

There was no Quorum in attendance at 5pm to discuss/carry the Motions.

519/57/15 Any Other Business:

520/57/15 Date & time of Next Meeting:

The next **Regional Health Forum meeting (AGM)** is now scheduled to take place on Tuesday, 30th June, 2015 at 2pm in Galway.

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

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach/Chairman

Adopted at the Regional Health Forum West meeting

QUESTIONS RECEIVED

REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM WEST – 30th June 2015

NUMBER	QUESTION	RAISED BY	PAGE NO.
Deferred from May			
W58Q1610	Cancelled outpatients appointments	Cllr C Connolly	3
W58Q1611	Aras Mhic Dara	Cllr C Connolly	3-4
W58Q1612	Addiction Counselling Services building in Merlin Park	Cllr C Connolly	4
W58Q1613	Bus transportation in Roscommon	Cllr P Kilduff	4-5
June 2015			
W58Q1614	Withdrawn		
W58Q1615	Rheumatologist – Mayo General Hospital	Cllr L Chambers	5
W58Q1616	Sacred Heart Hospital Castlebar	Cllr L Chambers	5
W58Q1617	Mayo General Hospital – HIQA inspection	Cllr L Chambers	5-6
W58Q1618	Psychiatric Unit - UHG	Cllr P Conneely	6
W58Q1619	Podiatry Clinic Merlin Park	Cllr P Conneely	6
W58Q1620	Payment scale paid to GP's – Capitation Payments	Cllr P Conneely	6-7
W58Q1621	GP vacancy in Moycullen	Cllr P Conneely	7
W58Q1622	No of Patients waiting to go from hospital to nursing home beds	Cllr D Killilea	7
W58Q1623	Waiting list for hip and knee replacements	Cllr D Killilea	7-8
W58Q1624	24 hr Service for Tuam Ambulance Base	Cllr D Killilea	8
W58Q1625	Will patients in Toghermore be affected by Grove Campus?	Cllr D Killilea	8
W58Q1626	Public Health Nurses in all 3 Aran Islands	Cllr. M Hoade	8-9
W58Q1627	Inisboffin Health Centre	Cllr. M Hoade	9
W58Q1628	Designated telephone number for PCRS	Cllr. M Hoade	9
W58Q1629	Waiting list for Orthodontic	Cllr. M Hoade	9
W58Q1630	Report into Maternity Services	Cllr M Kilcoyne	9-10
W58Q1631	Current Expenditure – Mayo General Hospital	Cllr M Kilcoyne	10
W58Q1632	Ambulance base in Castlebar?	Cllr M Kilcoyne	10
W58Q1633	Outpatients Waiting Lists in UL	Cllr M McCreesh	10
W58Q1634	'Physical Bed Capacity' across UHL Group hospitals	Cllr M McCreesh	10-11
W58Q1635	Update on new A&E UL Hospital	Cllr M McCreesh	11
W58Q1636	Nursing Recruitment drive for UL Group	Cllr M McCreesh	11
W58Q1637	Total paid in capitation payments to GP's in Sligo town	Cllr S O'Boyle	11
W58Q1638	Services at Nazareth House Sligo	Cllr S O'Boyle	12
W58Q1639	Dropping off of Lab Samples at Sligo Regional Hospital	Cllr S O'Boyle	12
W58Q1640	Rosalie Unit, Castlerea, Co. Roscommon.	Cllr T Ward	12-13
W58Q1641	Employment of nurses in Roscommon	Cllr T Ward	13
W58Q1642	Sacred Heart Hospital Roscommon	Cllr T Ward	13

W58Q1643	Patients per year attending Shannon Doc	Cllr T Ward	14
W58Q1644	Outpatients and Inpatients Clinics in GUH Hospitals	Cllr C Connolly	14-15
W58Q1645	Cancellation of outpatients of cancer patients	Cllr C Connolly	15
W58Q1646	Nursing posts in Aras Mhic Dara	Cllr C Connolly	15
W58Q1647	Public Nursing Home Beds in Galway City & County	Cllr C Connolly	15-16
W58Q1648	Dermatology Service at Letterkenny General Hospital	Cllr G McMonagle	16
W58Q1649	Urology services at Letterkenny General Hospital	Cllr G McMonagle	16-17
W58Q1650	Laundry Services at Letterkenny General Hospital	Cllr G McMonagle	17
W58Q1651	Carndonagh Community Nursing Unit	Cllr G McMonagle	17

NUMBER	QUESTION	RAISED BY
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Questions carried from RHF 26th May, 2015

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
<p>The refurbishment of Aras Mhic Dara 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>3 Intern Multi Task Attendants have been successfully recruited.</p>		
<i>B Gloster, A/Chief Officer, Area 2</i>		
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
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p>		

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?

B Gloster, A/Chief Officer, Area 2

June 2015 Questions		
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W58Q1614	Question Withdrawn	
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W58Q1615	When will the Rheumatologist that has been promised for 2 years take up duty at Mayo General Hospital? What is the reason for the delay in this regard?	Cllr. Lisa Chambers
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A third post has been approved for Manorhamilton and will serve Mayo on a visiting basis. We expect this post to be advertised in the coming weeks. There was a delay while we were awaiting approval from the Consultant Advisory Appointment Committee.

When this post is filled, an outreach service will be provided into Mayo General Hospital and this will involve a rotation of all 3 Consultants.

T. Canavan, COO, Saolta University Health Care Group

W58Q1616	Can you please provide an update on the current position with the Sacred Heart Hospital in Castlebar, County Mayo? What stage is the project at? What is the expected completion date?	Cllr. Lisa Chambers
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Planning permission has been granted.

Work will now commence on tender process to select a contractor, with a view to having the actual development commence by the end of the year.

The build timeframe is circa 18 months.

B Gloster, A/CHO, Area 2

W58Q1617	Following the unannounced HIQA inspection of Mayo General Hospital on 12th March 2015 and the published report dated 17th April 2015, can the HSE confirm that Mayo General has revised and amended its QIP to prioritise the improvements necessary to fully comply with the HIQA standards? Was this revised and amended QIP published on the Mayo General Website within 6 weeks of the publication date as required? What steps have been taken to rectify the very serious deficiencies in hospital standards identified in the report?	Cllr. Lisa Chambers
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Following the unannounced HIQA inspection of Mayo General Hospital on 12th March 2015 and the published report dated 17th April 2015, Mayo General Hospital has revised and amended its Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) to prioritise the improvements necessary to fully comply with the HIQA standards. This QIP was published on the SAOLTA Group website on 22nd May 2015. We are currently progressing the implementation of the recommendations and Quality Improvement Plan in line with National Standards. Ongoing monitoring will continue to take place via the Hospital Hygiene Team, Infection Prevention and Control Committee and Hospital Management.

T. Canavan, COO, Saolta University Health Care Group

W58Q1618	Why was a 47 year woman with Special Needs and in danger of suicide refused admission to the Psychiatric Unit at UHG, and be told by security staff that she could be forcefully removed if she did not leave the A&E Department.	Cllr Padraig Conneely
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The HSE does not comment on individual cases. It can be confirmed, however, that each patient who presents to the Emergency Department is individually assessed on each presentation and a Care Plan implemented.

The emphasis is in providing community treatment in line with Vision for Change. Following assessment and formulation of a Care Plan, hospitalisation is not always the most appropriate or therapeutic environment for the patient, although sometimes it is perceived that if a patient is not admitted that they have not received a service.

B Gloster, A/Chief Officer, Area

W58Q1619	When will the newly build Podiatry Clinic built at Merlin Park be in use and fully staffed and equipped.	Cllr Padraig Conneely
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The Estates Dept has confirmed that it is currently completing the final account with the Building Contractor. An application for funding for equipment was made in Jan 2015 and we are awaiting approval for this. When it is received, the equipment will be purchased by National Procurement, a process which usually takes about 8 weeks to complete.

There are no staffing implications in respect of this project. Surgical procedures services will be provided with the existing staff complement.

B Gloster, A/Chief Officer, Area 2

W58Q1620

What is the payment scale paid to GP's in capitation payments for Medical Card holders.

Cllr Padraig Conneely

I refer to Circular no. 009/2013 and to Statutory Instrument 277 of 2013, which was included with Circular no. 009/2013. (*A copy of the relevant section of S.I. 277 of 2013 will be circulated at the meeting).

I wish to advise that the Minister for Health made Regulations on 24th July 2013 to reduce payments to General Practitioners in respect of the GMS, the Maternity & Infant Care Scheme, the Health (Amendment) Act 1996, Heartwatch and National Immunisation Programmes. In accordance with section 9 (3) of the FEMPI Act 2009, the Regulations are effective from the 24th July 2013.

These regulations give effect to decisions of the Minister for Health following review of fees and allowances paid to general practitioners in accordance with the Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interest Act 2009. The Minister's decision has the following effect:

- Elimination of special fee payable in respect of Discretionary Medical Cards
- Reduction in the 3:1 panel weighting for patients over 70 years to 2:1
- Reduction in the 3.1 in other superannuable fees, such as capitation fees; fees in respect of asylum seekers/non EU nationals; and supplementary out-of-hours payments
- A 7.5% reduction in respect of other non superannuable fees, such as fees/allowances for Out-of-Hours work; STCs; Special Items of Service (excluding immunisation); Rural Practice Allowance; Dispensing; Second Medical Opinion; Locum Cover; various payments under Fee-per-Item Contract, Health (Amendment) Act 1996, the Maternity & Infant Care Scheme and Heartwatch
- Reduction of 1% in the practice nurse/secretary support payment
- Reduction in the influenza vaccination fee payable to €15.00

I would draw your attention to the provisions of section 9 (8) of the Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interest Act, 2009. Section 9 (8) allows a General Practitioner Contractor who does not wish to continue to render services on behalf of the HSE on the basis of the new payment arrangements to withdraw his/her services if he/she so wish following 30 days written notice of his/her intention to do so. In any such event, Section 9 (9) of the Act allows the HSE to engage the services of another professional to ensure that services continue to be available

Patrick Burke, PCRS

W58Q1621

When will the GP vacancy be filled in Moycullen?

Cllr Padraig Conneely

One GP position in Moycullen is currently filled in a temporary capacity and a full GP service continues to be available to the patients on the panel.

Details of the permanent post have been sent to the HR Dept locally for advertising. We expect that the post will be filled by Quarter 4 of 2015.

B Gloster, A/Chief Officer, Area 2

W58Q1622	Could the relevant director inform the forum as to the number of patients waiting to go into nursing home beds from both UCHG and Merlin and what plans are in place to reduce this figure?	Cllr. Donagh Killilea
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There are no patients in GUH or Merlin Park awaiting discharge and placement in a Nursing Home.

All patients who require long term care and who are ready for discharge are discharged to Nursing Homes with Transitional Funding until such time as their Fair Deal Funding is approved.

B Gloster, A/Chief Officer, Area 2

W58Q1623	Could the relevant director inform the forum as to the current waiting list for hip and knee replacements in our Galway hospitals?	Cllr. Donagh Killilea
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	0-3 Mths	3-6 Mths	6-8 Mths	8-12 Mths	12-15 Mths	15-18 Mths	18-24 Mths	24-36 Mths	36-48 Mths	Grand Total
Total arthroplasty of hip, unilateral	49	22	11	11	5	3	2			103
Total arthroplasty of knee, unilateral	16	4	3	5					1	29
GUH - hip and knee replacement waiting list (Second hip)										
Total arthroplasty of hip, unilateral			3	1	1		1	6		
Total arthroplasty of knee, unilateral				2	1		1	4		
Grand Total	65	26	17	19	7	3	4	10	1	132

<i>T. Canavan, Chief Operating Officer, SAOLTA University Health Care Group</i>		
W58Q1624	Could the ambulance service update us on the progress of opening the Tuam ambulance base to a 24hr service?	Cllr. Donagh Killilea
As of the 20 th April, 2015 Tuam Ambulance base is currently providing a 24 hour service.		
<i>P O'Riordan, Area Operations Manager, West National Ambulance Service</i>		
W58Q1625	Could the relevant director confirm that mental health services and patients in Toghermore House Tuam will not be affected by the opening of the new mental health campus on the site of the Grove Hospital Tuam?	Cllr. Donagh Killilea
<p>Galway Roscommon Mental Health Services is committed to the full implementation of the National Policy Vision for Change.</p> <p>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, including Toghermore House, is being assessed by a multidisciplinary Rehabilitation Team.</p> <p>Following these assessments comprehensive recovery based individual care plans will be formulated with the service user and their family/carers.</p>		
<i>B Gloster, A/Chief Officer, Area 2</i>		
W58Q1626	Can you confirm to me if there is a Public Health Nurse on all three of the Aran Islands at present. Has each Island got a G.P. Given the current threat to the air services to the island, what impact would this have on the services	Cllr. Mary Hoade
<p>There are currently Public Health Nurses on Inis Mór and Inis Meain.</p> <p>There is currently a 3 day per week Registered General Nursing service on Inis Oirr and from 1st July 2015 there will be a 3 day Public Health Nursing service there.</p> <p>There are resident GP's on Inis Oirr and Inis Mor. The GP from Inis Oirr visits Inis Meain 3 days per week.</p> <p>Regarding the air transport service, the HSE uses it for the transport of non acute patients and staff and also for the collection and delivery of supplies. It is the Department of Transport that is responsible for the air service to the islands.</p>		
<i>B Gloster, A/Chief Officer, Area 2</i>		

W58Q1627	Can you give me an updated account on the new Health Centre for Inisboffin, what plans are in place and what timeframe are we looking at? What is the up to date with acquiring the extra land for the health Centre?	Cllr. Mary Hoade
<p>A Consultant Engineer is currently assessing the site on Inisboffin including coastal flooding risk assessment. Estates are continuing to address the site challenges and as soon as site issues are resolved a Programme of Works will be developed with an appointed Design Team and a timeframe for the project established.</p> <p><i>B Gloster, A/Chief Officer, Area 2</i></p>		
W58Q1628	Is there any update on a designated number for elected Forum members to contact the Finglas office regarding medical card applications?	Cllr. Mary Hoade
<p>Mr. John Hennessy, National Director, Primary Care has agreed to meet the 4 Chairpersons of the Regional Health Fora to discuss this issue. He has provided us with 2 dates in July. The RHF West office are co-ordinating this meeting. They are awaiting confirmation of the name of the Chairperson from each region following their AGM's, the last AGM taking place on 7th July, 2015. Following this the date and venue of the meeting with Mr. Hennessy will be scheduled.</p> <p><i>T. Canavan, Executive Chairperson, RHF Office</i></p>		
W58Q1629	Can you clarify the length of time patients are on the Orthodontic waiting list from when they have the initial assessment? Have we all the necessary staff employed in this area?	Cllr. Mary Hoade
<p>Our waiting time is currently 3 years from first assessment until first appointment for orthodontic treatment. The children assessed in July 2012 are now commencing treatment.</p> <p>An additional Consultant Orthodontist has been approved at national level; recruitment efforts are ongoing.</p> <p>We also have approval for a trainee Specialist Orthodontist and it is expected that this post will be filled in Quarter 4 2015.</p> <p><i>T. Canavan, COO, Saolta University Health Care Group</i></p>		
W58Q1630	When will the report into Maternity Services be published? Has Mayo General Hospital made a submission to this report? Has the HSE West made a submission to this report?	Cllr. Michael Kilcoyne
<p>The National Maternity Strategy is being developed by the Department of Health.</p> <p>According to information from the Department of Health, a public consultation process is ongoing until 15th July and the process of completing a National Strategy should conclude so as to report back to the Minister by 31st October, 2015. Mayo General is currently compiling its submission and it will be completed by the due date.</p>		

The Steering Group for the National Maternity Strategy includes the following from HSE West: Professor Declan Devane, Professor of Midwifery, NUI Galway and Saolta University Health Care Group Ms Dawn Johnston, Group Director of Midwifery, Saolta University Health Care Group Dr Meabh Ní Bhuinneain, Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, Mayo General Hospital.

T. Canavan, COO, Saolta University Health Care Group

W58Q1631	What is the current expenditure in Mayo General Hospital to date this year against budget?	Cllr. Michael Kilcoyne
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The following is the year to date budget allocation for Mayo General Hospital versus year to date actual expenditure as at 31st May 2015.

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Variance	YTD Variance
	€ ,000	€ ,000	€ ,000	%
Net Expenditure	35,655	34,537	-1,118	-3.24%

T. Canavan, COO, Saolta University Health Care Group

W58Q1632	How many times in the last 2 months has the ambulance base in Castlebar been left without an ambulance crew at base?	Cllr. Michael Kilcoyne
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The National Ambulance Service (NAS) do not record the number of times that an ambulance base does not have a crew at base. However, we can confirm that the NAS National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) which is responsible for the deployment of ambulance service resources nationally utilise resources from its network of ambulance bases from one base to another so as to ensure that the NAS has the ability to meet demand across the area.

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

W58Q1633	With regards to the number of patients on Outpatient waiting lists at UHL Hospitals, can you specify the impact on scheduling (if any) caused by cancellations/rescheduling due to ongoing overcrowding across the UHL hospital group?	Cllr. Malachy McCreesh
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Outpatient Activity has not been impacted on - The management of Outpatients attendances is carried out in designated Outpatient Departments across the Group; consequently, this service is not affected by the overcrowding issues.

Colette Cowan, CEO UL Hospital Group

W58Q1634	With regards to the current “Physical Bed Capacity” across UHL hospitals, how many beds on average per day, are closed/blocked due to ongoing staff shortages?	Cllr. Malachy McCreesh
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We do not have any beds closed or blocked due to staff shortages.

Colette Cowan, CEO UL Hospital Group

W58Q1635	Can you provide an update on the scheduled development of the New Accident and Emergency Department at University Hospital Limerick with regard to the timeframe for completion and can you also confirm that the funds that were ring fenced for this facility are still in place to ensure the revised target date can still be achieved? At the May meeting of the Forum, the UL Hospital Group were not in a position to advise on the exact date for the commencement of the fitting out of this new ED building so there is concern that further slippage from the December 2016 date is now a possibility.	Cllr. Malachy McCreesh
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It is anticipated that a public works contract for the new Emergency Department at University Hospital Limerick will be awarded by July and that the contractor will mobilise in August with the main works commencing on site in September 2015.

Capital funding is approved and in place for this project and discussions are being concluded to ensure the project gets underway in accordance with this timeline and is delivered as soon as possible. Once the contract has been awarded we will be in a position to agree detailed project timelines with the builder and will be able to provide an update around projected timeframe and an estimated opening date. We are still working towards completion of the new ED by end of 2016.

Colette Cowan, CEO UL Hospital Group

W58Q1636	With regard to the recruitment drive by UHL group aimed at new nursing staff, how many posts have been successfully filled since January 2015, and of these can a breakdown be provided (to include speciality) with regards to sites involved? How many new accredited nursing staff have been assigned to the Critical Care Unit at University Hospital Limerick?	Cllr. Malachy McCreesh
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Since January 2015 we have appointed 74 new nurses, this would have included replacements for staff on maternity leave/sick leave in the Critical Care Unit. The numbers of nurses in the Critical Care Unit would have been increase in 2014 in order to allow the additional beds be opened.

Colette Cowan, CEO UL Hospital Group

W58Q1637	What is the total amount paid in capitation payments to GP's in Sligo town and County?	Cllr. Seamus O'Boyle
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The capitation fee paid to GP's for 2014 in LHO 20 (Sligo/Leitrim) is €5,375,698.53.

Kieran Healy, PCRS

W58Q1638	Are there any further plans for development of more services at Nazareth House site Sligo also has there been a traffic management plan being drawn up for this site and is it envisioned that more car parking spaces be made available.	Cllr. Seamus O'Boyle
<p>The HSE currently operates its Audiology, Early Intervention and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services from the old Nazareth House building. Approval has been received to progress to the next stage of development of the building that will lead to the provision of additional services including Children Services and a Primary Care Centre.</p> <p>The design team for Old Nazareth are currently scoping a traffic Impact assessment for the campus in consultation with Sligo County Council. This will include the long term parking plan for the campus. It is expected that this assessment will be completed in the next two months and this will form part of the planning application for the redevelopment of old Nazareth House.</p> <p>John Hayes, CHO, Area 1</p>		
W58Q1639	Could it be possible to make the dropping off of samples for the Lab in Sligo Regional Hospital easier by maybe having some kind of chute or something similar at the back of the Hospital where the lab is. instead of having to park in the Car park and pay parking charges just to leave in samples	Cllr. Seamus O'Boyle
<p>It is standard practice in most hospitals for samples to be delivered directly to the laboratory. The back of the lab is not appropriate for delivering samples as it is a fire exit and leads directly into the operational area of the lab. Access for the public would be against good laboratory practice. Therefore, the existing drop off arrangements are not expected to change at this time.</p> <p>T. Canavan, COO, Saolta University Health Care Group</p>		
W58Q1640	Can the HSE Executive inform the Members of the Forum if a clinic assessment was carried out on patients in the Community Mental Health Unit at Rosalie, Castlereagh?	Cllr. Tony Ward
<p>The HSE is aware of concerns in the Roscommon Area regarding the Rosalie Unit in Castlereagh.</p> <p>This issue has arisen because the services are currently reviewing all operations across the County for Mental Health provision. These reviews are a feature of planning for how best to secure the right response to needs for the coming years.</p> <p>In the Rosalie Unit there are currently 23 residents, the majority are elderly with a range of needs different to when the service was first opened in 1996.</p> <p>The public, the staff, families and most importantly the residents can be assured that any assessment starts and ends with what is best for those we currently care for. It is only after that the future of the service can be determined.</p>		

What has happened to date is a clinical review of needs of the residents. This will now be widened to include family and social assessment. Following this each resident will be carefully considered as to where they can be best cared for. No option can be ruled in or out at this point and our first commitment is to those residents.

When that process is completed the HSE will look at all resources and services in Roscommon and set out the provision for the future. Such a plan will be inclusive of a wide variety of input and will be published and explained. There is no doubt that Galway Roscommon Mental Health services have a high number of hostel and residential care provision.

Commenting on the issue the interim Chief Officer for Galway Mayo Roscommon, Bernard Gloster said, "Our primary focus is for those in our care today and those who will need it in the future. Any decisions on specific locations can only be based on that principle. This is not about buildings or money, but what is the right thing to do. People can be assured that any assessment and any plan will be done based on best knowledge, assessment and planning. Most importantly any change that might occur will be underpinned by a professional transparent approach in a manner which is caring and sensitive to the needs of people."

B Gloster, A/Chief Officer, Area 2

W58Q1641	Can the HSE Executive inform the members of the Forum whether or not forty-seven (47) nurses were appointed since January 2014 to the Health Services in County Roscommon and if so, what services were they appointed to?	Cllr. Tony Ward
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SAOLTA University Health Care Group

15 nursing staff were hired to Roscommon Hospital Acute Services from January 2014 to June 2015 ie.

12 Staff Nurses

2 Clinical Nurse Specialists

1 Assistant Director of Nursing

Note: of the above 15 staff 3 have left Roscommon Co Hospital employment to date.

T. Canavan, COO, Saolta University Health Care Group

Community Health Office – Area 2

The Personnel Administration System has recorded the recruitment of 41 nursing staff hired in Roscommon PCCC from 1st January 2014 to 31st May 2015 and the details are as follows:-

7 Nursing Staff Appointed to the Sacred Heart Hospital.

2 Nursing Staff Appointed to Aras Mathair Phoill, Castlerea

3 Nursing Staff Appointed to Plunkett Home Boyle

7 Nursing Staff Appointed to Public Health Nursing

22 Nursing Staff Appointed to Roscommon Mental Health Services (of which 9 are Pre-Registration.)

B Gloster, A/Chief Officer, Area 2

W58Q1642	Can the HSE Executive inform the members of the Forum if they have applied for the renewal of the licence for the Sacred Heart Hospital, Roscommon, which is due to expire at the end of June 2015?	Cllr. Tony Ward
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The Sacred Heart Hospital has applied to HIQA for re-registration and this is in progress.

B Gloster, A/Chief Officer, Area 2

W58Q1643	How many patients per Year are cared for by Shannon Doc in Thurles and could the HSE extend this service each night beyond 12 midnight?	Cllr. David Doran
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Shannondoc saw 5916 patients in Thurles in 2014; typically the service sees 6 to 7 patients in the evening and 25 patients on a weekend day. The vast majority of patients, 90%, access the service before 22:00 hours, therefore it would not make economic sense to extend the service beyond its current operational hours. Thurles is fully covered throughout the night from Nenagh from where the doctor is regularly dispatched to see patients in the Thurles area.

Bernard Gloster, Chief Officer, HSE Mid West Community Healthcare

W58Q1644	Please provide up to date figures for the numbers of patients on the various outpatient and inpatient clinics for both the Regional Hospital in Galway and Merlin Park Hospital and the periods of time the patients have been waiting and including the number of patients who have been referred to private hospitals since June of 2014 to date and given the name and location of these private hospitals	Cllr. Catherine Connolly
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GUH Outpatient waiting time by specialty (June 11th 2015)												
	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	48+ Mths	Grand Total
Anaesthetics	134	118	106	90	82	106	50	50	60	17	5	818
Cardiology	329	264	249	173	10							1025
Cardio-Thoracic Surgery	2											2
Clinical Immunology	80	61	75	78	56	10						360
Dermatology	595	435	483	202								1715
Gastro-Enterology	291	190	147									628
General Medicine	351	333	223	92	44	23	20	19	1			1106
General Surgery	638	209	91	76	4	9		1				1028
Geriatric Medicine	11	16	9	3	2	2	3	4	1			51
Gynaecology	389	288	303	257	223	201	128	36	29	3		1857
Haematology	62	55	4									121
Nephrology	66	37	33	27	33	30	32	13	24			295
Neurology	350	235	123	91	96	57	50	52	22			1076
Ophthalmology	560	189	78	11	8	20						866

Oral Surgery	398	256	271	282	39	102	2					1350
Orthopaedics	765	793	899	702	607	463	75	62	154	44	3	4567
Otolaryngology (ENT)	683	593	528	475	499	352	191	155	268	80	10	3834
Paediatrics	277	281	222	127	88	35	13					1043
Pathology	4											4
Plastic Surgery	639	400	304	268	134	136	112	106	85	46	42	2272
Respiratory Medicine	219	73	93	68	60	45	33	50	50			691
Rheumatology	308	255	183	170	140	151	82	84	78	16	10	1477
Urology	505	339	396	376	277	392	189	164	111	39	11	2799
Vascular Surgery	392	219	205	134	92	140	61	59	35			1337
Grand Total	8048	5639	5025	3702	2494	2274	1041	855	918	245	81	30322

GUH referred out 1088 Gastro Intestinal scopes to the Galway Clinic since June 2014.

T. Canavan, COO, Saelta University Health Care Group

W58Q1645	In relation to outpatient clinics for patients receiving treatment for cancer please clarify the number of clinics and the number of patients who have had their appointments cancelled from the date of the figures given at the last Health Forum up to the date of the next Health Forum on the 30 th June	Cllr. Catherine Connolly
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Between 26th May through to Friday 19th June 2015 22 oncology clinics were cancelled affecting 262 patients; of that number, 135 patients have had their appointments rescheduled.

T. Canavan, COO, Saelta University Health Care Group

W58Q1646	Please clarify in relation to the three nursing posts which remain to be filled in Áras Mhic Dara in what manner and in which media these three remaining nursing posts have been advertised including clarification on what local media was used and whether it was clarified that Irish was a necessary prerequisite for the posts and the current status of this process.	Cllr. Catherine Connolly
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The vacancies were advertised nationally through the NRS in April 2014 which resulted in the recruitment of two Nurses. Advertisements were run locally on radio stations and local newspapers. The local advertisements took place in January 2015, March 2015 and May 2015. At the end of May 2015 the NRS ran a recruitment campaign for Aras Mhic Dara and we have been advised that there are 16 applicants. They are in the process of scheduling interviews.

As previously highlighted, there have been difficulties in recruiting staff for Aras Mhic Dara and we are pleased with the level of application for the recent campaign and are hopeful of successful recruitment which is the overall priority. In the context of recruitment difficulties prerequisites to compete must be given due consideration. Nurses are recruited first and foremost on their exhibited ability to provide safe levels of care and secondly on the level of specialist skills

for the post e.g, geriatric nursing, dementia training etc . The competition will also request if applicants are prepared to undergo testing in their proficiency in the Irish language. Candidates who demonstrate competency in Irish will receive additional marks. The Irish language marks are incorporated into the final placing for appointment. Galway/Roscommon PCCC makes every reasonable effort to provide services through Irish in Gaeltacht areas.

B Gloster, A/Chief Officer, Area 2

W58Q1647	Please clarify the position in relation the number of public nursing home beds in Galway City and County including Units 5 and 5 in Merlin park and the name and location of each nursing home, the full complement of beds in each home vis a vis the actual occupation of the beds and the nature of any/all waiting lists given the length and the reasons.	Cllr. Catherine Connolly
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Nursing Home	Bed Numbers	Beds Occupied	Waiting List
St. Brendans, Loughrea	100	100	10
Units 5 & 6	52	52	10
Aras Mhuire, Tuam	18	16 (2 palliative beds unoccupied)	4
Aras Mhic Dara, Carraroe	47	36	6
St Anne's, Clifden	24	24	5
Aras Ronan, Inis Mór	12	11 (1 short stay unoccupied)	3

- 11 beds in Aras Mac Dara are temporarily closed in order to facilitate renovations to comply with HIQA registration requirements.
- Under the Nursing Home Support Scheme, all applicants approved for funding are accommodated in a Nursing Home of their choice. Owing to bed capacity, it is not always possible immediately to accommodate patients in the Nursing Home of their first choice. As beds become available, patients on the waiting lists for HSE Nursing Homes are contacted to see whether or not they are still interested. In some cases, they decide to avail of the bed. In other cases, the patients have settled well in a private Nursing Home and indicate that they are no longer interested in moving.

B Gloster, A/Chief Officer, Area 2

W58Q1648	Why has the Dermatology service at Letterkenny General Hospital been closed and when will it be reinstated?	Cllr. Gerry McMonagle
<p>The Dermatology Service in LGH is provided by two visiting consultants- one from Sligo Regional Hospital one day per week and one from Altnagelvin Hospital one day per week. In an effort to address waiting lists and to meet the interim ministerial maximum waiting time targets, a decision was made to temporarily relocate the Outreach Dermatology OPD clinics in Letterkenny to Sligo Regional Hospital for a 3 month period. The three hour round trip travelling time saved by the Consultant Dermatologist from Sligo is being used to run additional Dermatology clinics in SRH to see long waiting patients where there are currently over 1400 on Sligo waiting list and 600 on Donegal waiting list. The visiting service from Altnagelvin still continues.</p> <p><i>T. Canavan, COO, Saolta University Health Care Group</i></p>		
W58Q1649	When can we expect a full time Urologist Consultant to be reappointed to Letterkenny General Hospital to enable the hospital to provide full care for urologist patients in Donegal?	Cllr. Gerry McMonagle
<p>The Saolta University Health Care Group remains committed to the provision of General Surgery and Urology Services at Letterkenny General Hospital and is pursuing every avenue to ensure the continued delivery of these services in a safe and sustainable manner, as evidenced by the initiatives outlined above.</p> <p>Interim arrangements have been put in place to ensure that the existing patient workload continues to be managed at Letterkenny General Hospital. These arrangements include Consultant outreach from GUH.</p> <p><i>T. Canavan, COO, Saolta University Health Care Group</i></p>		
W58Q1650	Has Letterkenny General Hospital any concerns in relation to the current laundry service in particular the level of returns of medical scrubs?	Cllr. Gerry McMonagle
<p>Letterkenny General Hospital currently has a contract for the provision of Hospital Linen with CWS BOCO. Ireland Ltd.</p> <p>As part of this contract and included in the Service Level Agreement, CWS BOCO are obliged to carry out audits on the quality of Linen being supplied.</p> <p>These Quality/Reject Linen audits have consistently showed a quality reject rate of between 1% and 2% of the total quantity of Linen supplied to the Hospital on a weekly basis. The reject rate is consistent with industry standard.</p> <p>In absolute terms the number of Linen items provided to the Hospital by CWS BOCO is over 17,500 items per week and the number of Quality/Reject items is 175 per week.</p> <p>Reject items are identified at point of arrival and are removed from the supply being used within the hospital. The reject rate is consistent with industry standard.</p> <p><i>T. Canavan, COO, Saolta University Health Care Group</i></p>		

W58Q1651	What is the current situation regarding Emergency/Respite bed provision at Carndonagh Community Hospital and Will the HSE ensure a retention and or increase of the number of Emergency/Respite Beds at the Carndonagh Community Hospital site?	Cllr. Gerry McMonagle
<p>There are three (3) general respite beds and two (2) dementia respite beds in Carndonagh Community Hospital. These can be booked directly through the hospital or a General Practitioner.</p> <p>There are no plans to change this arrangement.</p> <p>If, in an emergency situation, there are no beds available in Carndonagh Community Hospital a bed would be provided in an alternative Community Hospital e.g. Buncrana, Lifford, St Josephs's Stranorlar, until such time as a bed could be provided locally.</p> <p><i>John Hayes, CHO, Area 1</i></p>		