

**Minutes of Regional Health Forum West held on Tuesday,  
30<sup>th</sup> June, 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 30,  
Meitheamh, 2015 ag 2.00 .i.n, i Seomra 1 an tIonad Oideachais,  
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte, Páirc Mheirlinne, Gaillimh

**Chairperson:** Cllr Tom McNamara

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

**In attendance:**

Tony Canavan, Chief Operations Officer, Saolta University Health Care Group  
Noreen Spillane, Chief Operations Officer, UL Hospital Group  
John Hayes, Chief Officer, Area 3  
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

**521/58/15 Nominations for Chair of Regional Health Forum**

Cllr John Carroll nominated Cllr Tom McNamara and it was seconded by Cllr Eamon Scanlan.

Cllr Tom McNamara was unopposed and deemed elected as Chairman of the Regional Health Forum West. Cllr Tom McNamara accepted the Chair of Office and thanked the councilors who supported his nomination and thanked them for their confidence in him and said he was really honoured to be elected as Chair of the Forum. Cllr. McNamara hopes to bring more open debate to the Forum and help improve the health service.

### **522/58/15 Nominations for Vice Chair of Regional Health Forum**

Cllr Lisa Chambers nominated Cllr Rosaleen O'Grady and it was seconded by Cllr Michael Collins. Cllr O'Grady was also elected unopposed and she thanked her colleagues for their support. She congratulated the Chairman and said she was looking forward to working with him for the year ahead and that collaboration was the way forward. The councillors congratulated her on her re-election.

### **523/58/15 Nominations for Chair of Regional Health Forum Committee**

Cllr David Doran nominated Cllr Gerry McMonagle and it was seconded by Cllr. Michael Kilcoyne. Cllr. McMonagle was also re-elected unopposed.

### **524/58/15 Nominations for Vice Chair of Regional Health Forum**

Cllr Rosaleen O'Grady nominated Cllr Eamon Scanlon and it was seconded by Cllr. Paddy Kilduff. Cllr. Scanlan was re-elected Vice Chair of the Regional Health Forum Committee

**The meeting was adjourned for 10 minutes to facilitate the taking of the official photographs of the re- elected Chairs and Vice Chairs.**

### **525/58/15 Minutes of previous meeting 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2015**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2015 were proposed by Cllr John Carroll, seconded by Cllr. Tony Ward and adopted.

### **526/58/15 Matters Arising:**

**Merlin Park Imaging Centre:** Cllr. C Connolly requested a copy of the new lease agreement for the Imaging Centre.

Action: T Canavan to respond to Cllr C Connolly with the details of the lease.

**SATU:** Cllr C Connolly requested an update on the lease for the Sexual Assault Treatment Unit.

Action: T Canavan to revert to Cllr. C Connolly with the current status of the lease.

**Rosalie Unit, Castlerea:** Cllr. Tony Ward thanked Bernard Gloster for visiting the Rosalie Unit as was agreed at the May forum and for issuing an email to the Roscommon councillors following his visit.

**Rehired Retirees:** Cllr. P Conneely requested the amount of pension paid to the rehired retirees referred to in Question W56Q1543 at the March meeting.

Action: T Canavan to finalise this figure and revert to Cllr. P. Conneely before the end of July.

**Procurement Report:** Cllr. P Conneely requested a copy of the procurement report commissioned by the Director General, HSE to be made available to the members.

**Suicide Prevention Officer for South Tipperary:** Cllr. D Doran requested members of the HSE to attend a Tipperary Co Co meeting to discuss suicide prevention. T Canavan/J Hayes agreed to talk to Cllr. Doran following the meeting about the new national strategy launched last week to reduce suicide.

### **527/58/15 Chairman's Address:**

The Chairman welcomed Cllr. Tom Connolly back to the Regional Health Forum West following the resignation of Cllr. Henry Kenny.

### **528/58/15 Questions:**

#### **W58Q1612– Addiction Counselling Building**

Action: B Gloster to revert to Cllr. C Connolly on the amount of insurance received as a result of the fire in this building and how was this money spent.

#### **W58Q1618 – Psychiatric Unit in UHG**

Action: J Hayes agreed to ask the Executive Clinical Director to review the clinical care of this person.

#### **W58Q1619– Podiatry Clinic – Merlin Park**

Action: J Hayes to revert to Cllr. P Conneely with the timeframe of when the podiatry clinic will be equipped.

#### **W58Q1621– G.P. vacancy in Moycullen**

Action: J Hayes to revert to Cllr. P Connelly outlining the reason for the delay in advertising and filling the post of G.P. in Moycullen.

#### **W58Q1626 – Air Services to the Islands**

Action: It was agreed to write to the Minister for Transport on behalf of the forum members to say they support the retention of Air Services to the islands.

#### **W58Q1627 – Health Centre Inisboffin**

Action: J Hayes to revert to Cll M Hoade with an update on the assessment on the suitability of the site for the new health centre in Inisboffin.

#### **W58Q1628 – Designated telephone number for Forum Members to contact PCRS**

Action: Cllr. T McNamara to revert to the Forum members following the meeting with John Hennessy with a decision, they are or are not giving the dedicated number?

#### **W58Q1632 – Ambulance Base at Castlebar**

Action: P. O'Riordan to contact Cllr M Kilcoyne on the ambulance base at Castlebar.

#### **W58Q1636– Recruitment of Nurses in UL Group**

Action: COO, UL Hospital Group to revert to Cllr. M. McCreesh with the breakdown of the nurses recruited in the UL Group by speciality and site.

#### **W58Q1637 – Capitation Payments - Sligo**

Action: PCRS to revert to Cllr. S. O'Boyle on the breakdown of the figure supplied – Sligo Town and County

**W58Q1641 – Nurses Recruited in Roscommon**

Action: Cllr. T Ward requested a breakdown of how many of the posts referred to in the response were new and how many were replacement posts.

Action: Saolta & CHO Area 2 to revert to Cllr. T Ward with this breakdown.

**W58Q1643 – Shannon Doc in Thurles**

J Hayes agreed to discuss this issue with B Gloster – to monitor the number of calls and their waiting time for a selected period and a decision to be based on the findings.

Action: J Hayes to discuss with B Gloster

**W58Q1644 – Outpatient/Inpatient Waiting Lists – GUH**

Action: T Canavan to revert to Cllr. C Connolly with the inpatient waiting list figures.

Action: T Canavan to revert to Cllr. C Connolly and Cllr. S O’Boyle with the list of current referrals to Private Hospitals, with the name and cost for each hospital.

**W58Q1645 – Outpatient Clinics for Cancer Patients**

Action: T Canavan to revert to Cllr. C Connolly on when the full complement of staff will be in place for cancer patients.

**W58Q1647 – Public Nursing Home beds**

Action: J Hayes to revert to Cllr. C Connolly to confirm where the patients are when they are on the waiting list for a nursing home bed?

**529/58/15 – Motions****W58M41 – Our Lady’s Hospital, Manorhamilton**

This motion was deferred to the September meeting.

**W58M43– Recruitment of medical staff at UL**

This motion was proposed by Cllr M McCreesh, seconded by Cllr. D Doran and adopted.

**W58M44 – Extension of Fairdeal system to people in their own home**

This motion was proposed by Cllr T Ward, seconded by Cllr. M Creaton and adopted.

Action: This motion will be referred to the Minister.

**W58M45 – No reduction of funding for the Rape Crisis Centre**

This motion was proposed by Cllr C Connolly, seconded by Cllr. A Norton and adopted.

Action: This motion will be referred to the Minister.

**531/58/15 Date & time of Next Meeting:**

The next **Regional Health Forum meeting** is now scheduled to take place on Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2015 at 2pm in Galway.

The next **Regional Health Forum Committee** meeting will take place on Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> 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 – 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2015

NUMBER	QUESTION	RAISED BY	PAGE NO.
W59Q1652	Entrance to Merlin Park Hospital	Cllr. T O'Flaherty	3
W59Q1653	Maternity Ward in Letterkenny General Hospital	Cllr G Crawford	3
W59Q1654	Waiting Lists in Letterkenny General Hospital	Cllr G Crawford	3
W59Q1655	Use of Private Ambulances in Letterkenny General Hospital	Cllr G Crawford	3-4
W59Q1656	Public Health Tobacco Prosecutions in last 3 years	Cllr G Crawford	4
W59Q1657	Patients on trolleys in Mayo General	Cllr L Chambers	4
W59Q1658	Update on Aras Attracta investigation	Cllr L Chambers	5
W59Q1659	HIQA registration of Sacred Heart Hospital Castlebar	Cllr L Chambers	5
W59Q1660	Update on Rheumatologist for Mayo General Hospital	Cllr L Chambers	5
W59Q1661	Staffing in Ambulance Services	Cllr D Killilea	5-6
W59Q1662	Staffing at Ambulance base in Tuam	Cllr D Killilea	6
W59Q1663	Wait time for nursing home beds in Galway	Cllr D Killilea	6
W59Q1664	Annual rent and rates for HSE property in Clare	Cllr A Norton	6-7
W59Q1665	HSE property portfolio for Co Clare	Cllr A Norton	App 1
W59Q1666	Overcrowding at A&E UL	Cllr A Norton	7
W59Q1667	A&E in Ennis	Cllr A Norton	7
W59Q1668	Our Lady's Hospital, Manorhamilton	Cllr F Gurn	7-8
W59Q1669	Orthophosphate to Water Supply in Limerick	Cllr M McCreesh	8
W59Q1670	Mechanical reliability of ambulance vehicles	Cllr M McCreesh	9
W59Q1671	HSE analysis of the dust sample results	Cllr M McCreesh	9
W59Q1672	Flooding report at Letterkenny General Hospital	Cllr G McMonagle	10-11
W59Q1673	Expansion of beds at Lifford Hospital	Cllr G McMonagle	11-12
W59Q1674	Revenue raised from Car Parking at Letterkenny General	Cllr G McMonagle	12
W59Q1675	Mortuary Services at Carndonagh Hospital	Cllr G McMonagle	12-13
W59Q1676	Sacred Heart Hospital Roscommon	Cllr M Creaton	13
W59Q1677	Over 70 patients attending UL Hospital Limerick	Cllr M Byrne	13
W59Q1678	Medical Card financial threshold	Cllr M Byrne	13-14
W59Q1679	Are there staff shortages in A&E in UL	Cllr M Byrne	14
W59Q1680	Reduction of waiting lists in UL?	Cllr M Byrne	14
W59Q1681	HIQA report on St Patrick's Hospital	Cllr. F Armstrong McGuire	14-15
W59Q1682	Additional funding for St Patrick's Hospital	Cllr. F Armstrong McGuire	15
W59Q1683	Additional Nursing staff for St Patricks Hospital	Cllr. F Armstrong McGuire	15
W59Q1684	20 Bedded hospital in Ballinamore	Cllr. F Armstrong McGuire	15
W59Q1685	Patient 'K' at Mayo General Hospital	Cllr M Kilcoyne	15-16
W59Q1686	Trolleys at Mayo General Hospital	Cllr M Kilcoyne	16
W59Q1687	Longest stay patient in Mayo General	Cllr M Kilcoyne	16
W59Q1688	Pay conditions offered to temporary nurses	Cllr M Kilcoyne	16
W59Q1689	Update on ED Department at University Hospital Galway	Cllr M Hoade	16-17

<b>W59Q1690</b>	Cancellation of elective surgeries at GUH	<b>Cllr M Hoade</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>W59Q1691</b>	Gort Mental Health Day Centre	<b>Cllr M Hoade</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>W59Q1692</b>	Update on recently employed nurses to Galway hospitals	<b>Cllr M Hoade</b>	<b>17-18</b>
<b>W59Q1693</b>	Update on Sacred Heart Hospital new 50 bedded hospital	<b>Cllr T Ward</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>W59Q1694</b>	Any plans to re-open St Bridget's ward in Roscommon	<b>Cllr T Ward</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>W59Q1695</b>	Funding made available to Mental Health Services Mayo	<b>Cllr T Ward</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>W59Q1696</b>	Restore weekend and B Holiday services to Roscommon mental health services	<b>Cllr T Ward</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>W59Q1697</b>	Outstanding monies from health insurance companies	<b>Cllr T McNamara</b>	<b>19-20</b>
<b>W59Q1698</b>	Trolley waits at UL Hospital Group	<b>Cllr T McNamara</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>W59Q1699</b>	Psychiatric department in University Hospital Galway	<b>Cllr C Connolly</b>	<b>20-21</b>
<b>W59Q1700</b>	Cancellation of outpatient clinics for cancer patients	<b>Cllr C Connolly</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>W59Q1701</b>	Helicopter Pad in Community Hall, Shantalla	<b>Cllr C Connolly</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>W59Q1702</b>	Out patient & In-patient waiting lists for MRI's/scans	<b>Cllr C Connolly</b>	<b>22</b>

NUMBER	QUESTION	RAISED BY
<b>W59Q1652</b>	What measures are the HSE taking in relation to improving the entrance from the Dublin Road to the Merlin Park Hospital? There have been on-going discussions in relation to making improvements to this dangerous entrance for almost thirty years and to date nothing has been done about this situation. This issue needs to be addressed properly as a matter of priority taking the danger of this busy junction into account.	<b>Cllr. Terry O'Flaherty</b>
Galway City Council have confirmed that the safest location and most effective entrance from the public road perspective is at Galway Crystal traffic lights. HSE and the SAOLTA University Health Care Group accept this and have confirmed that they will work with the City Council on the development of possible routes into the MPUH road network. The next step is that the City Council will apply for funding to carry out an environmental assessment of the area, the results of this, together with other site investigations and survey information will inform scheme options and viability.  <i><b>J Molloy, Estates Dept, HSE West</b></i>		
<b>W59Q1653</b>	Is the theatre in the maternity ward in LGH in use?	<b>Cllr Gerry Crawford</b>
The Maternity theatre is not currently in use and has not been in use for many years. This was due to the logistics of staffing three separate theatre areas.  As theatre activity levels have been increasing in LGH, we are currently reviewing the potential to commission the maternity theatre in order to provide additional capacity in the hospital.  <i><b>M Power, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group</b></i>		
<b>W59Q1654</b>	In relation to LGH what percentage of people waiting more than 18 months for clinic appointments or procedure have been seen or referred under the latest initiative.	<b>Cllr Gerry Crawford</b>
79% of those patients waiting 18 months or longer for an outpatient appointment were outsourced under the last initiative, the remainder were seen in-house.  In relation to Inpatient and Day case, there were no patients waiting in this time bracket, therefore there were no patients outsourced.  <i><b>M Power, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group</b></i>		
<b>W59Q1655</b>	On how many occasions in the last 3 years have private ambulances been used on journeys paid for by the HSE in Letterkenny General Hospital.	<b>Cllr Gerry Crawford</b>
In 2012, the National Ambulance Service introduced Intermediate Care Vehicle (ICV). These ICVs are primarily targeted at non-emergency transfers to bring patients from LGH to UHG and Dublin		



hospitals and to transfer patients between LGH and Community Hospitals in County Donegal. These arrangements allow the "blue light" ambulances to remain free to respond to emergency calls. Because of the increase in demand and increased links with tertiary hospitals, private ambulances have been utilised to support the ICVs. See the table below:

2013	4-6-13 to 31-12-13	284
2014	Jan to Dec 2014	1050
2015	1-1-15 to 30-6-15	893

Saolta University Health Care Group are looking at various options to improve the efficiency of its patients transport arrangements.

***M Power, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group***

<b>W59Q1656</b>	How many prosecutions have taken place in each individual county in HSE west area over the last 3 years under Public health tobacco act 2004.	<b>Cllr Gerry Crawford</b>
-----------------	---	----------------------------

The table below shows the number of prosecutions in each county for the past three years.

	2012	2013	2014
Limerick	0	1	2
Mayo	0	2	0
Donegal	2	14	16
Clare	2	2	0
Tipperary Nth		4	0
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	1	0	0
Galway		0	1
<b>HSE – West</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>19</b>

***M Mulcahy, Area Chief Environmental Health Officer***

<b>W59Q1657</b>	Can the HSE executive explain why the number of patients on trolleys at Mayo General Hospital spiked in August this year? We had figures from the INMO showing 105 patients on trolleys at Mayo General in August compared to 10 patients in August 2014 and 15 patients in August 2013. What specific steps are being taken or have been taken to address this issue?	<b>Cllr Lisa Chambers</b>
-----------------	--	---------------------------

Mayo General Hospital can confirm that there was an increase in the number of patients on trolleys throughout August 2015.

The numbers are particularly high this August as Emergency Department presentations are up by approximately 4% on July 2015 and 3.9% on August 2014. The medical admissions are also up by approximately 10% on August 2014. Admissions in July were also very high which automatically impacts on the following month in terms of length of stay for the first week to ten days and this results in capacity issues.

It is not possible to exactly state why this is the case but we have continued to have winter illness through the summer.

In addition, the age profile of our patients is higher in 2015 compared to the previous years.

***M Power, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group***

<b>W59Q1658</b>	Can the HSE please provide an update on the Aras Attracta investigation. How many staff are currently suspended pending investigation? Are there any staff under investigation that have not been suspended and are still working at the home? What has been done to cover the staff that have been suspended? Have additional staff been hired?	<b>Cllr Lisa Chambers</b>
-----------------	--	---------------------------

The Trust in Care investigation at Aras Attracta is ongoing.

14 staff are currently off-duty.

1 staff member working is under supervision.

Cover is provided by new staff hired and by agency staff.

30 new staff were hired to date in 2015 at the facility.

***T Canavan, Chief Officer, Area 2***

<b>W59Q1659</b>	Can the HSE executive provided an update on the Sacred Heart Hospital Castlebar, in particular it's dealings with HIQA with regards to the proposed works and the deadline what has been missed by the HSE to complete the work. Has an extension been granted by HIQA to allow the works to go ahead?	<b>Cllr Lisa Chambers</b>
-----------------	--	---------------------------

We have been issued with the Notice of Proposal to continue registration with the usual conditions including a condition that the reconfiguration of the physical environment is completed by June 2017.

This is on schedule and planning permission has been received for the new development and the tender process will commence next week.

***T Canavan, Chief Officer, Area 2***

<b>W59Q1660</b>	What is the up to date position on the rheumatology consultant that is to be hired at Manorhamilton, who will also provide a service to Mayo General Hospital? Has the recruitment process begun? What are the plans for rheumatology services at Mayo General? How many days per week with a rheumatology consultant visit Mayo General from Manorhamilton?	<b>Cllr Lisa Chambers</b>
-----------------	--	---------------------------

Interviews are being held for this post on the 15<sup>th</sup> of October 2015. Rheumatology services will be provided one day per week by a Consultant Rheumatologist at Mayo General Hospital as planned. This will commence once the new appointment has been made.

***M Power, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group***

<b>W59Q1661</b>	Could the Ambulance Service confirm to me how many staff have left the service before retirement age in the last 4 years, and if so what reason if any was given for the move.	<b>Cllr Donagh Killilea</b>
-----------------	--	-----------------------------

In counties Mayo, Galway, Roscommon -from 01/09/2011 to 31/8/2015 – 11 staff left before the maximum retirement age for the following reasons; wished to leave having reached minimum retirement age, personal reasons, going abroad.

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

<b>W59Q1662</b>	Could the Ambulance service confirm to me that the Tuam base staffed enough to give a reliable service to the North of the County given that there are reports that ambulances based in Tuam are going to work in Galway city.	<b>Cllr Donagh Killilea</b>
-----------------	--	-----------------------------

The ambulance base in Tuam has a staff complement of eight. This is similar to other 24/7 stations across the west. This allows for 24/7 cover without a relief staff compliment. Backfills as required for leave and training are provided from the pool of staff across the west. Approval was received for 11 staff and it would be the intention to have these in place over the next 12 to 18 months. At present there are 66 staff in training in both Ballinasloe and Tallaght Ambulance training Colleges with another 30 trainees due to start in November. Staff from these classes will become active as intern paramedics throughout 2016. The ambulance service intends to continue with its recruitment and training as part of the 2016 Service Plan.

The National Ambulance Service deploys ambulance crews in a dynamic manner and crews operating in Tuam can if necessary be deployed in Galway city, north Galway, south Mayo and west Roscommon. The same principle applies across the west and the remainder of the country with the National Emergency Control Room deploying crews to ensure optimum response and spatial spread of crews.

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

<b>W59Q1663</b>	Could the relevant director inform me of the waiting times for Nursing Home beds in the Galway area, and what steps are being put in place to improve these times.	<b>Cllr Donagh Killilea</b>
-----------------	--	-----------------------------

When a patient applies for the Nursing Home Support Scheme, they are asked to state preferences as to the nursing home into which they wish to be admitted. Once the application is approved, they are then admitted to the nursing home of their highest preference. Where they wish to be accommodated in a public nursing home and a bed is not available, patients are contacted when a bed becomes available, usually following the death of a patient.

Some patients avail of the offer while others choose to stay in their current location, having become settled and happy with the location.

***T Canavan, Chief Officer, Area 2***

<b>W59Q1664</b>	I would like to request a breakdown of the amount of money the HSE are currently spending on rent and rates on an annual basis in each town and village across County Clare.	<b>ClIr Ann Norton</b>
-----------------	--	------------------------

Please note that the HSE are not liable for commercial rates.

Area	Location	Annual Rent	Notes	2015 current situation
Clare	Kilbaha HC	€1,452.58	Rented	€1,452.58
Clare	Ballynacally HC	€1,650.66	Rented	€1,650.66
Clare	Sandfield Centre	€67,044.00	Rented	€67,044.00
Clare	Museum House	€50,000.00	Rented	€50,000.00
Clare	Ballyvaughan Medical Centre	€14,887.00	Rented	€14,887.00
Clare	Ennistymon Day Centre (Telecom)	€15,000.00	Rented	€15,000.00
Clare	Ennis Day Centre	€33,012.00	Rented	€33,012.00
Clare	Newpark Hostel	€1,062.00	HSE own /now vacant	
Clare	60/63 Shannon Heights	€1,011.00	HSE own this property	
Clare	Orchard Grove Respond	€32,136.00	Rented	€32,136.00
Clare	Tobartaoscaín - several services	122,837.000	Rented	€122,837.00
				<b>€338,019.24</b>

***B Gloster, Chief Officer, HSE Mid West Community Healthcare***

<b>W59Q1665</b>	I would like to request a breakdown of the property portfolio which the HSE own in the towns and villages across County Clare	<b>ClIr Ann Norton</b>
-----------------	---	------------------------

Please see Appendix 1.

***B Gloster, Chief Officer, HSE Mid West Community Healthcare***

<b>W59Q1666</b>	In light of the continuous unacceptable overcrowding in UHL emergency department, as of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2015 there are now 42 people on trolleys awaiting a bed and the new A & E will not be fully operational until 2017 at the earliest, what plans or provisions do the HSE intend to take in the meantime to alleviate this disgraceful position before we head into the really busy winter months for the hospital	<b>ClIr Ann Norton</b>
-----------------	--	------------------------

Currently in UHL we have 24 beds closed to allow for the necessary refurbishment of an inpatient ward. This will allow for an improved patient experience within UHL. This refurbishment is due to be completed by November and we will also have the opening of our new stroke unit in November. This week we have increased our inpatient bed numbers by 2 with the further increase of 2 additional beds over the next two weeks. We are actively working on a Winter Resilience plan for 2015 which will assist greatly in the more efficient management and flow of patients through

UL Hospital Group in order to actively address the overcrowding issues within the Emergency Department.		
<b>C Cowan, CEO UL Hospital Group</b>		
<b>W59Q1667</b>	Are there any plans to restore the A & E in Ennis to their previous levels in the interim to alleviate the problems in UHL's A & E	<b>Cllr Ann Norton</b>
The operation and functionality of the Local Injury Unit in Ennis hospital will remain as it currently is, opening 8am to 8pm seven days a week.		
<b>C Cowan, CEO, UL Hospital Group</b>		
<b>W59Q1668</b>	Clarification is required regarding the role and function of Our Ladies Hospital in Manorhamilton, Co. Leitrim. The opinions of local General Practitioners with particular emphasis on patient care of the elderly should be obtained as a matter of urgency. It is vital that community beds be made available to facilitate respite and occasional social admissions in addition to minor illnesses that do not require admission to Sligo General. Historically, the hospital has given fantastic service in facilitating these admissions. Recently, however, with the pressure from secondary care increasing exponentially, the availability of community beds would appear to have lessened. Best medical practice indicates that intervention at an earlier stage in a patient's condition can offset the need for acute admission and reduces costs all round. As an interim measure can I request that two beds be immediately made available to cater for GP referred patients requiring community respite care.	<b>Cllr F Gurn</b>
Discussions were held recently with GPs in relation to access to beds in Our Lady's Hospital. A structure is now in place to allow GP access/referral to beds which includes respite care. This will be monitored on an ongoing basis and feedback provided to the GPs in the coming months. In addition, access to a Consultant Geriatrician in the Day Hospital and the development of a MDT (multi-disciplinary team) clinic are expected to improve services locally.		
<b>M Power, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group</b>		
<b>W59Q1669</b>	What testing procedures have the HSE initiated to justify supporting the Irish Water proposal to add orthophosphate to the water supply in Limerick during a pilot project in Limerick in the coming weeks Have the health risks to both individuals and the environment been fully analysed ?	<b>Cllr. M McCreesh</b>
The Environmental Protection Agency is the supervisory authority for public drinking water supplies in Ireland and the HSE has commented on the EPA response to Irish Water's proposal to commence orthophosphate treatment in Limerick. A meeting and site visit took place on July 30 <sup>th</sup> to review the proposed orthophosphate project for Limerick Public Water supply which included the EPA as supervisory authority and the HSE Public Health and Environmental		

Health services. A follow up written communication was sent to Irish Water by the EPA on August 13<sup>th</sup> setting out conditions agreed with the HSE covering the monitoring and evaluation of the process (which will evaluate both the effectiveness of lead reduction and impact on receiving water), dosing equipment, dose verification and other procedure. The EPA have continued to meet with Irish Water to ensure that the pilot is conducted according to best practice standards including the recommendations outlined on August 13<sup>th</sup> and will use these recommendations as a basis for the assessment of the pilot project.

Orthophosphate has been used in a supply in Co Carlow since 2010 - the proposed project in Limerick will therefore not be the first use in an Irish setting but will focus on assessment of its effectiveness in reducing lead levels in a locality with a large concentration of older housing where lead pipe work tends to be concentrated.

There is no recognised health concern linked to orthophosphate as a treatment in drinking water supplies following extensive use across the UK population of over 55 million people for over a decade and in many other major metropolitan settings including New York where reduced lead levels in drinking water have resulted. A similar reduction, if achieved as a result of orthophosphate treatment in Limerick, has the potential to reduce lead exposure from drinking water and protect the health of vulnerable groups including unborn infants and young children.

***Dr Kelleher, Asst. National Director, Public Health***

<b>W59Q1670</b>	Can the HSE provide details of the penalties imposed on the providers of the vehicles used by the Ambulance Service with regard to mechanical reliability? There have been a number of serious incidents involving the breakdown of ambulances during the last few months in the HSE West region.	<b>Cllr. M McCreesh</b>
-----------------	---	-------------------------

In relation to mechanical reliability, the NAS do require a 3 year warranty period on our Emergency Ambulances and Intermediate Care Vehicles.

The NAS has a servicing plan with regard to all vehicles in conjunction with the recommendations of the manufacturer's requirements. All vehicle servicing and repairs are carried out through approved garages and managed and monitored by a Fleet Officer in the area and on a day to day basis by operations officers.

There is also a 24/7 recovery system in place. The National Ambulance Service also has a replacement plan in place for vehicles in 2015, which is part of the Service Plan submission on an annual basis.

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

<b>W59Q1671</b>	Can you provide an update on the HSE analysis of the dust sample results supplied by the Office of Environmental Protection Agency with regard to incident at the Irish Cement site P0029-02 in Limerick on Saturday, 25th July 2015. As per the Environmental Protection Agency, the dust	<b>Cllr. M McCreesh</b>
-----------------	--	-------------------------

	<p>accidentally discharged from this site contained, mainly silica, calcium, with a bit of iron, aluminium, chlorine and other minor constituents. Are there any health concerns for the area's impacted?</p>	
<p>The Department of Public Health was notified on the morning of 27/7/2015 by a representative of the EPA of an accidental release of dust from Irish Cement on the 25/7/2015. The main effect reported by local residents was dust on their cars and houses. No illness in Irish Cement Workers or in local residents was reported to us at the time.</p> <p>We contacted the Emergency Department of University Hospital Limerick and spoke to a Consultant in Emergency Medicine who had worked over that weekend, he was not aware of any extra admissions or admissions reported to be due to the dust, this he also checked with his colleagues. We also contacted a number of GPs by phone in the area who did not report any associated illness. We circulated a letter to all GPs in Limerick city and county asking them to report any illness associated with the incident. We have not received any notifications of any such illness to date and do not anticipate any at this point.</p> <p>The main health effects that may be associated with exposure to this kind of dust are irritation of the eyes, skin and respiratory tract. We advised that anyone exposed should clean the eyes and skin with water, should contamination occur. This advice was disseminated through a joint press release with the EPA and also in the letters to the GPs.</p> <p><b><i>Dr Kelleher, Asst. National Director, Public Health</i></b></p>		
<b>W59Q1672</b>	When will we receive the promised Report into the cause of the Flooding at Letterkenny General Hospital?	<b>Cllr G McMonagle</b>
<p>The Letterkenny Hospital Flood Investigation Group was formed by the Chief Executive of Saolta University Health Care Group and chaired by the HSE's Assistant National Director Estates. The Letterkenny Hospital Flood Investigation Group was commissioned to investigate the cause of the flood at Letterkenny General Hospital Campus on August 5<sup>th</sup> 2014. The full terms of reference of the Group are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To establish the sequence of events that resulted in the flooding on the evening of the 5th August</li> <li>• To determine if the Flood Management Strategy was implemented in full on Tuesday 5th August</li> <li>• To review and amend (if necessary) the Flood Management Strategy in light of the events of Tuesday 5th August</li> <li>• To review the current and proposed (under construction) flood defence measures and to recommend additional works if deemed necessary</li> <li>• To carry out a Flood Risk Analysis and to recommend actions to mitigate the risks identified</li> <li>• To research and report on the planning and development history of the hospital campus particularly in relation to the siting of the various new hospital departments.</li> </ul> <p>The membership of the Group consists of; Mr. John Browner, Assistant National Director Estates (Chair)</p>		

Mr. Mike Bermingham, Estates Manager (North West)  
 Mr. Michael Martin, Project Manager, Estates  
 Mr. Sean Murphy, General Manager, Letterkenny General Hospital  
 Ms, Sharon Moohan, Non-Executive Director, Saolta University Health Care Group Board  
 Mr. Tony Canavan, Chief Operating Officer Saolta University Health Care Group  
 Mr. Peter Byrne\*, Facilities Manager, Letterkenny General Hospital  
 Ms. Muriel Perry\*\*, Patient Advocate  
 \*PB Co-opted on to the Group as SM on leave for a period  
 \*\*MP Co- opted on to Group

The purpose of the HSE investigation was not just to establish the cause of the flooding but to identify the measures that need to be put in place to protect against flooding into the future. This has entailed identifying all the possible flooding risks on campus and in the surrounding catchment area, understanding the storm drainage in the area and developing strategies to minimize these risks. The investigation team has been working with the Hospital, Donegal County Council and Errigal College throughout this process.

The investigations identified as a matter of urgency what immediate remedial action needed to be taken to prevent a recurrence of the flooding problem and considerable work has taken place within the campus since Aug 2014, in addition to the work that commenced after the July 2013 flood. As previously advised, indications are that the rainfall event on the 5<sup>th</sup> of August 2014 may have been more intense than the rainfall event on 26th July 2013. The overflow culvert is now operational and related works such as screens, weather station, flow-level monitoring and CCTV are complete. Tertiary prevention measures including physical barriers for hospital doorways have been procured and commissioned and underwent successful testing on June 16 2015. Pumping equipment has been procured and is permanently available on site.

We are satisfied that all of the people contributing to the investigation have worked very hard to not just establish what caused the flood in August 2014 but also to establish the measures that need to be put in place to protect against flooding into the future. This was a complex investigation which required a systematic and detailed approach.

The Letterkenny Hospital Flood Investigation Group have been advised by their legal advisers that the final report should not be published pending conclusion of other legal actions involving third parties. We remain committed to publishing this report once all possible judicial processes are concluded.

***M Power, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group***

<b>W59Q1673</b>	Are there any plans to expand on the number of beds currently available at Lifford hospital and will Lifford Hospital benefit from any refurbishment Schemes being implemented by the HSE?	<b>CLlr G McMonagle</b>
-----------------	--	-------------------------

The HSE (Donegal) has submitted business cases to develop a new Community Hospital/Nursing Unit in Letterkenny and Ballyshannon, Co Donegal.

The HSE (Donegal) is currently in discussions with HIQA to secure the continued registration of all



community hospitals in Donegal. The HSE is proposing that Lifford Community Hospital continue as a short stay unit.

### **LIFFORD COMMUNITY HOSPITAL**

#### **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES PROVIDED**

4 Long Term Care Beds

5 Respite Beds

1 Palliative Care Bed

4 Convalescent / Rehab Beds

6 Assessment

(1 Physiotherapy 2 Occupational Therapy referral)

Podiatry

Meals on Wheels to two Communities and the Local Residential Unit Daily

#### **CAPACITY**

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total Bed Capacity	40	40	30	20	20	20	20	20
Long Term Care	21	22	13	5	5	5	5	4
Short Stay	19	18	17	15	15	15	15	16
Admissions	363	385	302	281	259	280	296	140
Discharges	353	384	318	279	259	282	295	143
Respite	109	225	211	219	211	206	220	101

#### **MEASURES TAKEN TO ENHANCE QUALITY OF CARE SINCE 2008**

- A Long Stay Unit devised
- Palliative Care Training -3 Nursing Staff
- The introduction of the Matrix Audit System
- HALT completed over past four years
- Refurbishment of Residents Sitting and Dining Room
- The development of a Chapel of Rest
- The development of a family room for overnight stay
- The installation of CCTV covering the doors and corridors
- Safer Medication Management with the local Pharmacists input
- The purchase of 8Low Low beds
- Keypad locks installed on Office, Sluice Room, Clinic Room doors

#### **CAPITAL INVESTMENT in 2014 and 2015 (to date)**

€40,000:00 - Kitchen upgrade

€132,000.00 - Fire Prevention works

***J Hayes, Chief Officer, Area 1***

<b>W59Q1674</b>	Can we have the figures raised from Car Parking Charges raised at Letterkenny General Hospital in the years 2012 2013 and 2014 and what was the percentage that the hospital acquired and how many providers of car Parking Services recently tendered for the contract of running the car parks at LGH?	<b>Cllr G McMonagle</b>
<p>All of the profits due from the Car Parking for 2012 , 2013 , and 2014 have been reinvested into development of additional car parking spaces , upgrading of security systems including CCTV , installation of an access control system and ongoing maintenance of car parks on the campus , including resurfacing and relining. All of the income derived from the operation of this car park is associated with Letterkenny General Hospital after all direct expenses, management fee and Vat are deducted. The National Procurement Service is presently tendering the application from the Saolta Health Care Group for the management of car parking services on their sites. Due to commercial sensitivity at this time the hospital cannot disclose the financial data required.</p> <p><b><i>M Power, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group</i></b></p>		
<b>W59Q1675</b>	Why are Mortuary services at Carndonagh Hospital not available to local Funeral Directors And will this facility Be made available in the future for funeral and family uses Or will it remain as currently used by the hospital?	<b>Cllr G McMonagle</b>
<p>Mortuary services at Carndonagh Community Hospital remain available to funeral directors to dress and coffin deceased persons. Embalming is not a service provided or funded by the HSE, but is provided by commercial entities (funeral directors) under contract with recently bereaved families who choose this service. While it was historic custom and practice for some hospitals throughout the country to facilitate an embalming service by commercial entities a number of issues were identified concerning the provision of services. These included :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. weaknesses in consent for embalming</li> <li>2. weaknesses in supervision, credential checks and indemnity arrangements</li> <li>3. weaknesses in service level agreements (SLAs) and standard operating procedures in relation to this practice.</li> </ol> <p>A decision was taken by the HSE to discontinue facilitating this service where historic custom and practice existed.</p> <p>It is therefore the responsibility of the commercial entity to make their own arrangements in the provision of services under contract with the deceased member's family. This is in accordance with national policy and best practice.</p> <p><b><i>J Hayes, Chief Officer, Area 1</i></b></p>		
<b>W59Q1676</b>	In relation to the Sacred Heart Hospital in Roscommon have admissions been stopped? Has all the documentation been sent to the Department seeking	<b>Cllr M Creaton</b>

	funding to bring the facility up to HIQA standards?	
<p>We have been served with a Notice of Proposal by HIQA to restrict admissions. The HSE has made representations to HIQA in response to this proposal, as permitted by the legislation. During the process, the status quo remains and Sacred Heart Home is open to admissions.</p> <p>A plan and related documents have been prepared by CHO in conjunction with HSE West Estates and have been submitted nationally for consideration by the National Capital Steering Group. This project proposal is part of discussions at national level, particularly between HSE and Department of Health.</p> <p><b><i>T Canavan, Chief Officer, Area 2</i></b></p>		
<b>W59Q1677</b>	How do University Hospital Limerick deal with patients over 70 and do they prioritise them where possible to avoid long delays for them.	<b>Cllr. M Byrne</b>
<p>We actively manage the over 70's cohort which we monitor on a daily basis to ensure that they are appropriately managed. We have a strong focus on the appropriate management of these patients. Over 75 year old patients are rapidly triaged in the Emergency Department. These patients are prioritised to be seen.</p> <p><b><i>C Cowan, CEO, UL Hospital Group</i></b></p>		
<b>W59Q1678</b>	Are seriously ill patients been provided with medical cards even if they are over the financial threshold?	<b>Cllr. M Byrne</b>
<p>Eligibility for a Medical Card or a GP Visit Card is determined on the basis of an assessment of financial means.</p> <p>If an applicant's means are above the financial thresholds, set out in the National Assessment Guidelines, the HSE examines any indication of circumstances (medical or social), which might result in undue financial hardship. HSE Medical Officers are involved in the assessment process regarding the application of discretion. Eligibility may be granted, on a discretionary basis, if these circumstances are such that a person cannot arrange general practitioner medical and surgical services for themselves and their dependants, without undue financial hardship.</p> <p>The outcome of the assessment of eligibility is notified to the applicant, in writing. Applicants are advised of the process for the reassessment of their application/or the process by which the eligibility outcome can be appealed.</p> <p>Finally, It should be noted that any child, who has not yet reached 18 years and who has a diagnosis of cancer within the preceding five years ending 30th June 2015, may be awarded a medical card, with effect from 1st July 2015. This is under the terms of a decision of the Director General of the HSE, having examined and accepted the interim recommendation of the Clinical Advisory Group, which was established following the publication of the Report of the Expert Panel on Medical Need for Medical Card Eligibility.</p> <p><b><i>Kieran Healy, PCRS</i></b></p>		

<b>W59Q1679</b>	Are there staff shortages in A&E in the University Hospital Limerick?	<b>Cllr. M Byrne</b>
<p>We are currently experiencing staff shortages and are actively recruiting.</p> <p>Currently there are 2 Registrar Vacancies, 1 SHO vacancy and 7 Nursing vacancies which we are currently working to recruit.</p> <p><b>C Cowan, CEO, UL Hospital Group</b></p>		
<b>W59Q1680</b>	Having waiting lists been reduced across all departments in University Hospital Limerick since the beginning of this year?	<b>Cllr. M Byrne</b>
<p>UL Hospitals Group have met all the 18 month targets as set out by the Minister by June 2015.</p> <p>UHL – In-patient/Day Cases    Jan 2015 – 3072,    July 2015 – 3913  UHL – Outpatients                      Jan 2015 – 15,226, July 2015 17,487</p> <p><b>C Cowan, CEO, UL Hospital Group</b></p>		
<b>W59Q1681</b>	Following the publication of the HIQA report on St Patrick's Hospital Carrick on Shannon which has caused grave concern to the Patients their Families and the Staff at the Hospital Can the HSE confirm that there are no plans to remove the patients & staff from the facility ?	<b>Cllr F Armstrong McGuire</b>
<p>A full action plan has been submitted to HIQA in relation to the registration of the Hospital. This application took into account areas of concern as highlighted in previous HIQA reports, especially in relation to the age and design of the building and the lack of privacy, dignity and space offered to residents. As a result, the HSE have decided on the following approach to secure registration for St Patrick's Hospital.</p> <p>1) The HSE will open the Community Nursing Unit in Ballinamore. This unit will provide care for 20 residents and will be staffed by HSE employees. Once the Unit is registered with HIQA, 20 existing residents in St Patrick's, from the Ballinamore area, will transfer to the new unit. Extra staff required to run the unit are currently being recruited by the HSE. We will be working closely with the residents and families during this transfer.</p> <p>2) In order to provide the space within St Patrick's which will afford privacy and dignity for the residents, the bed compliment will reduce by 20. This extra space offered to residents, their relatives and staff, will assure HIQA that the Hospital will be able to provide a high standard of care within a very old building.</p> <p>3) The HSE continues to seek capital approval from the Department of Health to build a new Community Hospital on the HSE owned site in Carrick-on-Shannon.</p> <p><b>J Hayes, CHO, Area 1</b></p>		
<b>W59Q1682</b>	Will the HSE immediately provide the funding for the works to be carried out at St Patricks Hospital which were highlighted in the HIQA Report?	<b>Cllr F Armstrong McGuire</b>

Refurbishment works on ward areas to improve the shower / toilet facilities and storage will be carried out by the HSE.

***J Hayes, CHO, Area 1***

<b>W59Q1683</b>	When are the HSE going to advertise and provide urgently required extra Nursing Staff at St Patricks Hospital ?	<b>Cllr F Armstrong McGuire</b>
-----------------	---	---------------------------------

A comprehensive staffing review has been completed for St Patrick's hospital utilising a number of different staffing allocation tools. This review considered the number and dependency of residents, skill mix of staff and the ratio of staff to each individual resident. We are awaiting the final outcome of the review.

St Patrick's are currently recruiting 2 Clinical Nurse Managers. Interviews took place on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

The following posts are due to commence within the Hospital,

- 1 Staff Nurse due on 21/9/15
- 2 HCA due on 14.9.2015 and 21.9.15.

In addition an Assistant Director of Nursing Post is currently being launched by the National Recruitment Service.

***J Hayes, CHO, Area 1***

<b>W59Q1684</b>	Can the HSE provide me with a date of when the new 20 bed hospital in Ballinamore, Co Leitrim will open and the reasons for the long delay in not having it opened presently?	<b>Cllr F Armstrong McGuire</b>
-----------------	---	---------------------------------

It is planned to open the new 20 bed Community Nursing Unit in Ballinamore in the last quarter 2015. The unit is currently being registered with HIQA by the HSE as provider of the service.

***J Hayes, CHO, Area 1***

<b>W59Q1685</b>	In relation to the 'investigation into the care and management of patient K ' at Mayo General Hospital which was held between 16th June 2014 and 13th March 2015, please state : (a) Whether of not the recommendations have been implemented, (b) if not why not and any recommendation that has not been implemented when will it be implemented. (c) What steps have the HSE put in place to ensure that the recommendations are being complied with on an ongoing basis.	<b>Cllr. M Kilcoyne</b>
-----------------	--	-------------------------

We do not comment on issues relating to individual patients.

***M Power, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group***

<b>W59Q1686</b>	Please supply the figures for the number of patients on trolleys on Mayo General Hospital in July 2014 and July 2015, August 2014 and August 2015 and how many beds were occupied in the hospital in July 2014 and July 2015 and August 2014 and August 2015.	<b>Cllr. M Kilcoyne</b>
-----------------	---	-------------------------

The Figures for the number of patients on trolleys in Mayo General Hospital are as follows:-

July 2014	98
July 2015	77
August 2014	10
August 2015	105

The figures for how many beds were occupied in the hospital are as follows:

July 2014	82%
July 2015	81%
August 2014	80%
August 2015	81%

***M Power, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group***

<b>W59Q1687</b>	What was the longest stay any patient had in Mayo General Hospital during the period September 2014 to September 2015?	<b>Cllr. M Kilcoyne</b>
-----------------	--	-------------------------

We do not comment on issues relating to individual patients. The average length of medical stay at Mayo General Hospital is 5.1 days.

***M Power, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group***

<b>W59Q1688</b>	In relation to the incentives /pay/conditions being offered to nurses overseas to work in Ireland, are the same incentives/pay/conditions being offered to temporary nurses currently employed by the HSE and will the temporary nurses be offered permanent posts ahead of nurses not yet recruited?	<b>Cllr. M Kilcoyne</b>
-----------------	---	-------------------------

Nurses on recruitment panels (be they national or local recruitment panels) where vacancies exist have already been offered employment with the HSE. Where those vacancies have not been filled these are the vacancies that are being offered to overseas nurses. Therefore any post that is filled by an overseas nurse will already have been offered to nurses on existing recruitment panels. Many hospitals in the region have offered permanent posts to nurses who are in temporary employment in their hospital, due to the fact that permanent positions remain unfilled.

***F Rogers, A/National Director, HR***

<b>W59Q1689</b>	Can you confirm an update on the ED Department. As we are now approaching the winter months and the time when pressure is greater on the ED department. Is there any commitment from the Minister following his visit to	<b>Cllr M Hoade</b>
-----------------	--	---------------------

	fast track the new ED for Galway University Hospital.	
--	---	--

We have not received any formal approval to progress to design stage of a new ED.

Efforts are ongoing in relation to improving the conditions for patients attending the Emergency Department at UHG. We are currently in the process of creating an Emergency Ward which is an extra 30 Beds. This will be located in the existing physiotherapy department on the ground floor of GUH. In July this year we commenced the new development of the 75 bed ward and this will take 18 months to complete.

***M Power, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group***

<b>W59Q1690</b>	Can you confirm the number of elective surgeries that were cancelled on a daily basis for the last three months. Given that we are now entering the winter months and with greater pressure on the hospital. Are there any plans in place to deal with cancellations of elective surgery? I have a particular case of a child who has had her elective surgery cancelled on a number of occasions.	<b>Cllr M Hoade</b>
-----------------	--	---------------------

Preadmission Cancellations JUNE,JULY and AUGUST 2015 (DAYCASES AND INPATIENTS)

YEAR	Cancel Reason	Number Cancellations
2015	Deferred/Cancelled by hospital	843
	Deferred/Cancelled by Patient/Guardian Request	871
Total		1714

Patients scheduled for elective surgery are only deferred/cancelled when the appropriate resources are not available to effectively and safely treat the patient or at the request of the patient.

***M Power, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group***

<b>W59Q1691</b>	Can you confirm to me what is the current situation with Gort Mental Health day centre ? I understand planning permission has been granted for this. When is the work expected to start?	<b>Cllr M Hoade</b>
-----------------	--	---------------------

Planning permission was granted on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2015. The application for Fire and Disability Access Cert was lodged on 21<sup>st</sup> August 2015 and we await the outcome of this (there is an eight week turnaround). If granted we will be seeking the funding necessary to carry out the works before proceeding to tender.

***T Canavan, Chief Officer, Area 2***

<b>W59Q1692</b>	Can you confirm to me how many extra nursing staff have been employed in the Galway Hospitals following the recruitment campaign. How many nurses have returned from overseas? Nationally the HSE have confirmed that 82% of its agency staff budget was used by the end of May. The HSE have stated that the medical staff portion of its agency budget is the part that is under greatest pressure.	<b>Cllr M Hoade</b>
<p>GUH has hired 80 WTE staff nurse since Jan 2015 for all areas (including ICU, Theatres, excluding student nurses ) of these 8 are returned from overseas.</p> <p>Following the most recent nursing recruitment campaign in early September 2015 another 27 Staff nurses have been interviewed to date and are currently being progressed through the NRS.</p> <p>In addition 17 further staff nurses are returning from the UK with start dates expected end of December 2015.</p> <p>Recruitment for nursing is ongoing.</p> <p><b>Agency</b> There is an increasing number of patients who require one to one special attention and over 1,000 agency hours per week are being used to cover this requirement; to proactively manage and seek to reduce the associated costs, we are recruiting Health Care Assistants.</p> <p><b>M Power, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group</b></p>		
<b>W59Q1693</b>	Can the HSE inform the members of this Forum if the Sacred Heart Hospital in Roscommon was on the HSE waiting list in 2010 for a new 50 bedded CNU on the site which would replace part of the existing building?	<b>Cllr T Ward</b>
<p>Sacred Heart Hospital, Roscommon was identified by HSE Estates in 2010 as a site that required a significant capital plan to bring Sacred Heart Hospital, Roscommon into compliance with HIQA regulations.</p> <p>There are 119 CNUs nationally that require capital investment to reach HIQA Standards.</p> <p><b>T Canavan, Chief Officer, Area 2</b></p>		
<b>W59Q1694</b>	Can the HSE inform the members of this Forum if the HSE has any plans to open the St. Bridget's ward at Roscommon County Hospital on a seven day week basis?	<b>Cllr T Ward</b>
<p>St Bridget's ward at Roscommon Hospital comprises of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15 Day surgery/endoscopy beds open 08.00am to 8.00pm Monday to Friday only</li> <li>• 17 In-patient Surgical beds open at 08.00am each Monday morning and closed at 8.00pm every Friday evening.</li> </ul> <p>As Roscommon Hospital is a model 2 type hospital within the Saolta University Health Care Group, all surgical work performed at the hospital is elective and predominately day surgery.</p>		



Surgical patients who need overnight stays are booked for their surgery earlier in the week and all surgery performed on a Friday at Roscommon Hospital is day surgery only.

When the Medical ward is full, particularly during busy periods, the in-patient beds on St Bridget's ward may also be used for medical patients. As Friday continues to be the main day of the week for discharges, in-patient on St Bridget's ward will transfer to the vacant beds on the medical ward on a Friday afternoon. Therefore, there are no plans to open St. Bridget's ward on a 7 day basis.

**M Power, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group**

<b>W59Q1695</b>	Can the HSE inform the members of this Forum as to what amount of funding was made available to the Mental Health Services in County Roscommon for 2014 & 2015?	<b>Cllr T Ward</b>
-----------------	---	--------------------

The budget allocation for Roscommon Mental Health Services in 2014 and 2015 is as follows:

2014	11,668,359.00 m
2015	12,216,969.00 m

**T Canavan, Chief Officer, Area 2**

<b>W59Q1696</b>	Can the HSE inform the members of this Forum if there are any plans to restore the weekend and Bank Holiday service to the Mental Health Services that was discontinued a number of years ago in County Roscommon?	<b>Cllr T Ward</b>
-----------------	--	--------------------

An intensive nursing seven day home-base team was set up in Roscommon earlier this year. This team works bank holidays and weekends and provides care and treatment to patients in their home or in a location of choice.

**T Canavan, Chief Officer, Area 2**

<b>W59Q1697</b>	I call on the HSE West to provide an update on the current monies outstanding to its two hospital Groups from private health insurance companies? How much is of this relates to claims under preparation in hospitals, what work is being done as regards getting hospitals to submit these invoices in a timely manner and what action is been taken to tackle delays in submitting the paperwork.	<b>Cllr T McNamara</b>
-----------------	--	------------------------

#### **SAOLTA GROUP**

Insured debt report 31.7.15 (Debt due from Private Health Insurers PHI's)

#### **Saolta University Health Care Group**

		<b>€m</b>
Submitted	Awaiting response from Insurer	18.310
Submitted	Under query with Insurer	16.245
Unsubmitted	Awaiting Consultant Action	18.467
Unsubmitted	Awaiting other actions	2.419
Ready for submission		<u>2.877</u>
		<b><u>58.050</u></b>

The HSE is currently negotiating with the PHIs and it is expected that significant progress on the outstanding debt will materialise from these discussions. It is also anticipated that amounts currently outstanding due to legislative changes in 2014 will be resolved.

All hospitals are engaged proactively reducing debt and where possible additional resources have been allocated in this process. Additional resources have also been sourced to assist consultant in completing their volume of work.

***M Power, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group***

At the end of July 2015 the total amount of claims submitted and awaiting payment from Private Health Insurance Companies was 12.485m euro for the UL Hospitals Group with a further 1.197m euro of claims ready for submission on that date.

Aside from Claims under query and awaiting patient details, a further €16,232m euro of claims are awaiting Consultant action.

In order to increase the value and improve the time taken to submit claims, the Group has implemented the Claimsure IT system across all sites. The Finance Department are actively following, weekly and monthly, with Consultants and the Group CEO has written to Consultants requesting that claims are submitted within the required timeframes.

***C Cowan, CEO, UL Hospital Group***

<b>W59Q1698</b>	Due to a 40% increase in the number of patients on trolleys for the month of August 2015 compared to August 2014 what action is the CEO of the UL Hospital Group putting in place to insure that the people of the mid west are not facing another winter of discontent with regard to services in the Accident and Emergency unit of University Hospital Limerick.	<b>Cllr T McNamara</b>
-----------------	---	------------------------

Within UL Hospital Group we are actively working on a Winter Resilience Plan for 2015 which will provide a robust plan to help alleviate and address the overcrowding issues within the Emergency Department. We look forward to the opening of our new Stroke Unit which will increase our inpatient bed compliment for stroke patients from 15 dedicated beds to 24. We have this week increased our inpatient bed capacity with two additional beds and over the next two weeks we will be adding an additional 2 beds to the inpatient cohort.

***C Cowan, CEO, UL Hospital Group***

<b>W59Q1699</b>	Please clarify the position in relation to the current number of patients and the current level of staffing in the Psychiatric Department in University College Hospital Galway giving a breakdown of same and current status of any recruitment process in being/or completed including a breakdown of whether staff to be recruited or graduate nurses or more senior nurses and also whether a receptionist is to be recruited and further clarification on the recent fire in the Unit and the operation of the CCTV	<b>Cllr C Connolly</b>
-----------------	--	------------------------

	system and cameras and whether same has been repaired and/or maintained and/or is currently in operation.	
<p>On the 14<sup>th</sup> September 2015 there were 44 inpatients in the Department of Psychiatry UHG. There were 13 Registered Psychiatric Nurses and an Intern Nurse on duty to care for this patient group.</p> <p>The current nursing compliment is 50 WTE. This will be increasing to 64 wte's in view of the LRC agreement of June 3<sup>rd</sup> 2015. This is excluding CNM3 posts of which there will be an additional five posts. These figures do not include the Assistant Director of Nursing. Provision has been made for the recruitment of additional administrative staff across all areas of Galway/Roscommon mental health services in the Estimates for 2016.</p> <p>On 28<sup>th</sup> July 2015 a fire safety incident involving a patient occurred in the locker room in the Psychiatric Unit. Staff were alerted to the fire by the smoke alarm. Nursing staff quickly opened the door and removed the patient from the area. Security assisted and there was no need for evacuation of the Unit. The patient received the appropriate medical and psychiatric intervention required. Supports have been offered and are available to both patients and staff as appropriate. An incident review was carried out and a further review will be carried out by the Health &amp; Safety Committee, Galway/Roscommon Mental Health Services. All necessary notifications were carried out .</p> <p>The CCTV system (including maintenance arrangements) in the Unit is currently being reviewed with hospital security. Once this review is complete we will look at the options available to us to improve the current system. We will liaise with the Mental Health Commission for their advice, to ensure that the dignity of patients is respected. It is important to note that changes or developments to the current system will need to be compatible with the move to the new 50 bed Psychiatric unit.</p> <p><b><i>T Canavan, Chief Officer, Area 2</i></b></p>		
<b>W59Q1700</b>	In relation to the cancellation of outpatient clinics for patients receiving treatment for cancer and in view of the confirmation that this matter was to be rectified by July 2015, please clarify what steps have been taken to ensure that no further clinics were cancelled since then and if cancelled confirmation of the actual number of clinics and patients' appointment cancelled since the 30th June to the date of this meeting.	<b>Clr C Connolly</b>
<p>The NCHD staffing complement has been fully restored and weekly Oncology outpatient clinics are continuing as normal. All urgent referrals to the oncology clinics are seen immediately.</p> <p>Given the large numbers of patients requiring follow up clinic appointment and the capacity issues in our Outpatient Department and in order to manage capacity and optimise follow up clinics, the waiting list is under constant clinical review. Where deemed clinically appropriate patient appointments may be deferred until a later date – 83 patients have had their appointments deferred and plans are at an advanced stage to hold extra review clinics to accommodate these patients.</p> <p><b><i>M Power, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group</i></b></p>		

<b>W59Q1701</b>	Please clarify the position re the temporary arrangement for the Helicopter Pad in the Community Park in Shantalla including when the agreement came into place, for what period of time, why the arrangement has not ended by now as agreed and when is it proposed to end same and what is the precise current position and the nature of any problems/difficulties which have arisen.	<b>Cllr C Connolly</b>
-----------------	--	------------------------

The Helipad at UHG was relocated temporarily to allow for enabling works (car park) for our Radiation Oncology Facility to proceed. Unfortunately the car park project met unforeseen difficulties and was delayed for a period of time.

The enabling works are now progressing to the revised plan and it is expected that the existing helipad will be re-commissioned by the end of February 2016. It is planned that the reinstatement of the temporary landing pad will be completed by the end of March 2016.

***M Power, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group***

<b>W59Q1702</b>	Please clarify the position in relation to outpatient and inpatient waiting lists for MRIs/Scans and ordinary x-rays including duration of the list and number of patients on same for both University College Hospital Galway and Merlin Park with full clarification on the nature of the contract/lease the HSE West has with the private company operating from the grounds of Merlin Park Hospital	<b>Cllr C Connolly</b>
-----------------	---	------------------------

<b>Ultrasound</b>	<b>Wait Time(days)</b>	<b>Number waiting</b>
Priority 1	35	51
Priority 2	308	1340
Priority 3	203	404
<b>Total</b>		<b>1777</b>
<b>CT</b>	<b>Wait Time(days)</b>	<b>Number waiting</b>
Priority 1	91	68
Priority 2	266	317
Priority 3	189	61
<b>Total</b>		<b>446</b>
<b>MRI</b>	<b>Wait Time(days)</b>	<b>Number waiting</b>
Priority 1	91	90
Priority 2	772	2204
Priority 3	807	634
<b>Total</b>		<b>2928</b>
<b>MRI GA</b>	<b>Wait Time(days)</b>	<b>Number waiting</b>
Children	161	5

Adults	715	13	
<i>M Power, CEO, Saolta University Health Care Group</i>			