

REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM WEST

27TH SEPTEMBER, 2011

QUESTIONS & RESPONSES

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20	W35Q812	Bed closures in the 3 District Hospitals in Mayo	Cllr A May Reape

NUMBER	QUESTION	RAISED BY																				
W35Q777	What is the current status with regards to extending the car parking at Letterkenny General Hospital and bringing in a colour coded system?	Cllr C Brogan																				
<p>HSE Response: Work on the car park extension is due to commence on Monday 3rd October. Plans for colour coding will not be looked at until the extension has been completed. Mr John Hayes, ISA Manager, Donegal</p>																						
W35Q778	What are the plans for the houses which are sitting vacant in the Slieve Sneacht area in Letterkenny?	Cllr C Brogan																				
<p>HSE Response: The HSE intends to dispose of Nos 31 to 34 Slieve Sneacht, Close, Letterkenny. Work is in progress in relation to same. Mr John Hayes, ISA Manager, Donegal</p>																						
W35Q779	<p>I request an explanation for the disparity in the regional per capita funding allocations, the ongoing slippage of funding to the Mid-West region and the discrepancy in funding allocations to The Regional Hospital in Limerick. (see comment below) Mid-West Allocation as a % of total West Allocation of HSE funding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2006: 31.56% • 2007: 31.56% • 2008: 31.12% • 2009: 30.30% • 2010: 29.73% <p>Note: each 1% decrease equals 21.03 Million Euro (Relative total reduction = 38.48 Million Euro). Given the Assertion by the Department of Health that all services are provided on a regional basis The figures for the per capita funding i.e the amount of funding given per man woman and child living in the region, the disparities show that the provision of health services in the country is not provide for on sn equal basis. The list shows that an individual living in the North East region benefits by 630 Euro when compared to an individual living in the Mid – West. Per Capita Funding 2010</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Region</th> <th>Funding Allocation per person (Euro)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>North West</td> <td>3339</td> </tr> <tr> <td>West</td> <td>3095</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Midlands</td> <td>3030</td> </tr> <tr> <td>North Dublin</td> <td>2818</td> </tr> <tr> <td>South East</td> <td>2795</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dublin South</td> <td>2737</td> </tr> <tr> <td>South</td> <td>2726</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mid-West</td> <td>2709</td> </tr> <tr> <td>North East</td> <td>2698</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The difference between the Mid-West and the lowest on the list is 11 Euro per person. From the Sunday Business Post 14th August 2011 Over the past two years, the HSE has centralised acute services in the Midwest at Limerick by ending 24hour emergency department and acute surgical services at Ennis and Nenagh General Hospitals.</p>	Region	Funding Allocation per person (Euro)	North West	3339	West	3095	Midlands	3030	North Dublin	2818	South East	2795	Dublin South	2737	South	2726	Mid-West	2709	North East	2698	Cllr B Meaney
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	<p>The MWRH was supposed to get an extra 135 acute beds on the Dooradoyle site to accommodate the expected increase in acute patient numbers. That never happened. Instead, the region has fewer beds than it did before and tens of beds have closed in Ennis and Nenagh hospitals. The budgets of Ennis and Nenagh hospitals have fallen by about €7 million and that money was due to be transferred to Dooradoyle and 'follow the patient'. It hasn't, said Dr Sandy Fraser, who is chairman of the medical board at the hospital. 'We basically had €7 million stolen from us,' he said. The MWRH has a budget allocation of €160 million for 2011. Fraser said it was woefully inadequate. "Galway serves 40,000 fewer people and yet gets €90 million more than we do," he said.</p>	
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HSE Response:

I set out below the HSE(W) Allocations compared with the MW ISA allocations for the past 4 years. The figures show very marginal changes in the MW percentages which can be accounted for through the impact of various cost containment measures on the historic cost mix. The current internal annual funding allocation process is completely transparent involving significant communication and discussions with local managers on all funding issues arising. The process is essentially a year on year roll forward of historic base budgets adjusted for such issues in 2011 as Exit Schemes, Moratorium, Charges Increase and Procurement Savings etc. Year on year comparison of figures require great caution due to various changes in the accounting treatment of certain items such as Demand Led Schemes and Fair Deal funding which were transferred from local to national Accounts. Also in this category are pension payments in the former Midwest which until 2008 were charged to local Hospitals and LHO budgets but changed to Corporate to standardise with both West and Northwest. The per capita allocations do not take any account of other health need factors such as age, gender, social deprivation levels and cost drivers such as regional services, cross boundary flows and rurality. Following on from the national policy of money follows the patient the HSE has commenced a pilot hospital orthopaedic per case funding project. Discussions are currently underway at National level to expand this project further next year. Reconfiguration funding given to the Midwest was in the form of a temporary advance until the savings were realised. We have allocated €2m to Midwest in this years budget towards reconfiguration costs. An internal HSE national study based on 2008 expenditure data showed that HSE(W) was 6% above the national per capita average.

Budget Allocations RDO

Year	RDO	MW	%
	€'m	€'m	
2008	2,375.6	755.5	31.80
2008 restated*	2,346.9	726.7	30.97
2009	2,359.0	732.9	31.07
2010	2,094.4	647.4	30.91
2011	1,975.8	609.3	30.84

* Up to 2008 Budgets in respect of Pensions and Gratuities were included in the Service allocations in the Midwest whereas they were part of Corporate allocations in the other two former Boards.

Mr Liam Minihan, Asst. National Director, Finance

W35Q780	What resources are being put in place to reach targets for Orchidopexy Treatment.	Cllr B Meaney
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HSE Response:

The current national target is measured across each of our hospitals as one of the Basket of 24 day case procedures under healthstat and each site is endeavouring to meet the national target.

GUH

GUH is currently, in association with the Special Delivery Unit, working to manage and treat patients on GUH's inpatient waiting list by clinical urgency and length of time waiting up to December 2010, patients requiring Orchidopexy treatment within this time frame will be managed and treated accordingly.

Portiuncula

Orchidopexies are carried out by General Surgeons at Portiuncula and a visiting Consultant Urologist from GUH.

Letterkenny General Hospital

Orchidopexies are performed by General Surgeons/Urologist at Letterkenny General Hospital the day case rate for these procedures in 2010 was 68%.

Sligo General Hospital

In summary orchidopexy performed by General Surgeons and Urologist in Sligo there were 23 cases in 2010 of which 60% were treated on a day case basis.

Specialty Report Created 22/09/2011 14:47:41							
Data Source: HIPE Reporting Database (602)							
Selectons							
Total	23						
Coded	23						
Uncoded	0						
Grouped	23						
Ungrouped	0						
Selections:							
The Discharge Date is between 01/01/2010 and 31/12/2010.							
The All Procedures (ICD-10-AM Block) is equal to 1186.							
The All Procedures (ICD-10-AM Block) is equal to 1188.							
The All Procedures (ICD-10-AM Block) is equal to 1175.							
keyField	Description	Total	Percentage	ALOS	Inpatient Bed Days	IsDaycase	Average Age
2600	General Surgery	21	91.3	1.13	9	13	10.48
7800	Urology	2	8.7	1	1	1	6.5
TOTAL	TOTAL	23	100	1.11	10	14	10.13

Mid West Urology Service

Target for Orchidopexy Treatment was 70% patients treated by 4 years in 2009 our performance shows 60% patients treated compliant with Target in 2010 we treated 72% surpassing the 2009 target.

Chris Kane, Acute Services Regional Co-ordinator

W35Q781	What actions are being taken to ensure target times for disability assessment in Children under 5 are reached.	Cllr B Meaney
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HSE Response:

The following is the response for the HSE West:

All Assessment of Need for children up to the age of 5 are currently up to date in all HSE areas with the exception of Galway and Sligo/Leitrim/West/Cavan.

The two areas with a backlog are currently working on same and have put the following actions in place to address these issues locally:

Galway:

In Galway there are a number of posts vacant at present in the Early Intervention Services due to the current moratorium on staff recruitment. However, we are endeavouring to eliminate the backlog of assessments for these vulnerable clients.

Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan:

Update as follows:

- Assessment Officer and Case Manager on long-term unplanned leave.
- Waiting List for CAMHS assessments
- Vacant Sen Occupational Therapist and Sen Speech & Language Therapist posts

Actions

- Part- time Assessment Officer now assigned to the post and the Liaison Officer has returned from leave.
- Access now available to part-time AO, IT system as passwords assigned to staff within the Sligo/Leitrim area by National Office.
- Training has been provided to part-time Assessment Officer recently
- Approval for a 2nd CAMHS Consultant post. Interviews took place on the 23rd May, 2011. Awaiting confirmation of start date
- Psychology Department have reorganised service provision with 3 posts identified to complete AON's following training. One Psychologist is in a position to diagnose Autism.
- Consultant Psychiatrist operates Saturday clinics to address the waiting list for AON's. Saturday clinics commenced 26th February 2011 and are continuing on an ongoing basis.
- Approval has been received from AEMG to fill 2 critical OT and SLT posts in the Early Intervention Service. Posts are currently with NRS for filling from existing panels. NRS currently experiencing difficulty for filling posts. Agreement has been reached with NRS to run a Bespoke competition with aim to fill Senior OT post. SLT post still with NRS. These two key posts are directly involved in assessment of need under the Disability Act. . Current recruitment PAUSE may slow up filling of these posts

Prior to this temporary difficulty with staff, Sligo/Leitrim were meeting all statutory requirements under the Disability Act.

Catherine Cunningham, GM, Roscommon PCCC & Lead for Disability Services and Service Arrangements

Mid West

While it is necessary to have an identified timeframe it is important to recognise that is not necessarily appropriate for all children .Our records show that in the majority of cases where we are late in meeting the time lines it is factors that are often outside our control as outlined below.

- Complex children who require ongoing or further assessment that cannot be completed within the timeframe
- Frequently, families have issues and difficulties with attending assessment appointments resulting in delays in the completion of the AON
- Unresolved issues in relation to CAMHS not complying with the time lines

The response at local level as to how we address our failure to meet same:

- Local Implementation Group (LIG) meeting held quarterly, which is chaired by the Senior Operational Manager and attended by Disability service manager, Case Manager, and Assessment Officer (AO), and heads of Therapy department when required. Issues arising discussed and actions agreed as appropriate
- Local children's services management groups identify potential gaps in service and where possible deal with same
- Each individual child is followed up on by the Assessment Officer so as to expedite the assessments as much as possible and to liaise with parents to agree extensions to the timeline

Bernard Gloster, ISA Manager, Mid West

W35Q782	I request a detail of the wait time from registration to admission in each of the full and part time Emergency departments in Hospital in the HSE West.	Cllr B Meaney
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HSE Response: Not available at time of printing

W35Q783	What new services, if any, are going to be provided at Roscommon County Hospital?	Cllr T Ward
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HSE Response:

A Consultant in Plastic and Reconstructive surgery from GUH commenced on the 21st September 2011 a fortnightly outreach OPD clinic at Roscommon County Hospital. September 2011, and will commence a day surgery practice in mid October.

- Discussions are ongoing with GUH regarding the provision of other outreach services.
- Discussions are ongoing with the National Rehabilitation Hospital in Dun Laoghaire to the location of a Regional Rehabilitation service for HSE West at Roscommon County Hospital.
- An outreach Rheumatology service is to be piloted at Roscommon County Hospital in October 2011 using

video conferencing <i>Elaine Prendergast, General Manager, Roscommon County Hospital</i>		
W35Q784	How many older patients have been admitted to the Sacred Heart Hospital in Roscommon over the past twelve months and how many patients are being cared for at the Sacred Heart Hospital at present?	Cllr T Ward
<p>HSE Response: There are 93 patients being cared for at present in the Sacred Heart Hospital. There were 8 Long Stay admissions from 31/8/2010 to present. The no. of rehab/respite admissions for the same period was 57 respite and 147 short stay. Short stay and respite figures includes readmissions from hospital. <i>Catherine Cunningham, GM, Roscommon PCCC & Lead for Disability Services and Service Arrangements</i></p>		
W35Q785	How many ambulances are presently based at Roscommon County Hospital to provide a service for the hospital's catchment area and are the ambulances staffed with paramedics?	Cllr T Ward
<p>HSE Response: 4 emergency crews in Roscommon and Boyle staffed with paramedics – 8am to 8pm ▪ 3 emergency crews in Roscommon and Boyle staffed with paramedics - 8pm to 8am ▪ Advanced Paramedic rapid response vehicle – 24 hours x 7 operating in Roscommon area ▪ Intermediate Care Vehicle x 2 for low acuity calls – discharges and transfers <i>Paudie O'Riordan, Area Operations Manager – West, Ambulance Service</i></p>		
W35Q786	Will there be a reduction of staff at Roscommon County Hospital due to the closure of the A&E and Coronary Care and if so, to what hospitals will the surplus of staff be transferred?	Cllr T Ward
<p>HSE Response: Staff employed in the ED service have been redeployed to the Urgent Care Centre and the New Medical Assessment Service since the 11th July 2011 1 Coronary Care unit has not closed. 2 There is not expected to be any surplus of staff as some staff are considering early retirement under the Croke Park Deal by 29th Feb 2012. Other staff have requested to be redeployed so as to continue to work in the area in which they are skilled and trained. <i>Elaine Prendergast, General Manager, Roscommon County Hospital</i></p>		
W35Q787	What is the current nursing/aid staffing at St. Ita's Hospital Newcastle West what reductions have taken place with regard to numbers in years 2009& 2010 and what level of Agency Resource support was provided in each of the 3 years in question.	Cllr J Scanlan
<p>HSE Response: WTE Sept 2011 - Nursing - 59.49 WTE ; June 2010 - 65 WTE Sept 2011 - Non nursing - 56.49 WTE June 2010 -- 75.25</p> <p>Agency for non-nursing staff -- 2009 = 0. 2010 Year 2010 = 110 hrs; 2011 Agency to end August 2011 for non-nursing = €164,248</p> <p>Agency for nursing staff : Jan - end August 2011 = €226,443 Agency Nursing staff Jan - Dec 2010 - €494,727</p>		

6.6 nursing posts have been lost due to resignations / retirements since March 2010. Three further nursing posts will be lost due to retirements before February 2012.

6.1 non-nursing posts have been lost since the moratorium in March 2010. 5.3 further posts will be lost before Feb 2012.

Bernard Gloster, ISA Manager, Mid West

W35Q788	What is the age profile of the current permanent nursing/aid staffing at St. Ita's Hospital Newcastle West and what if any arrangements are in train for succession planning in terms of a balanced age profile should this be deemed necessary.	Cllr J Scanlan
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HSE Response:
 Age profile of staff --
 Aged 54 - Total 6 (Nursing 4; General support staff 1; other client care 1)
 Aged 55 - 59 - total 28. (Nursing 12; General support 1; Management/admin 3; other client care 12)
 Aged 60 - 64 - total 25. (Nursing 10; General support 4; Management / admin 1; others client care 10)
 No arrangements for succession planning in place due to moratorium.

Bernard Gloster, ISA Manager, Mid West

W35Q789	Has the necessary staff and resources been put in place to ensure the re-opening of the Breast Cancer Service in Sligo General Hospital in accordance with commitments given by the Minister for Health and other government representatives, and on what date will the re-established Breast Cancer Service in Sligo General Hospital become operational.	Cllr D Bree
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HSE Response:
 The National Cancer Control Programme has not changed its policy in the current reconfiguration of the National Breast Cancer Services. As the National Cancer Services Programme is directed by government policy and implemented by the National Cancer Control Programme, the Area would require a direction from the National Cancer Control Programme in relation to any changes in the current organisation of the provision of symptomatic Breast Cancer Services.

Women in the Sligo area with breast cancer currently access diagnostic and surgical services in Galway. Some 96% of women who attend the Galway breast unit do not have cancer, and only one visit is normally necessary. For the small number diagnosed with breast cancer, some 85% will require radiotherapy as well as surgery, which would involve treatment in Galway in any event.

Chemotherapy is still provided to all cancer patients in Sligo. The recruitment of a second permanent medical oncologist is in train. For breast cancer patients specifically, there is a specialist breast nurse in place and detailed clinical pathways have been worked out for Sligo patients presenting with post-operative infection or other conditions, so as to minimise the need to travel to Galway.

Breast cancer diagnosis and breast surgery are the only cancer services to have ceased at Sligo General. As one of the two designated cancer centres for the HSE West region, Galway has a critical mass of expertise, sufficient throughput of cases and relevant multi-disciplinary specialist skills in cancer services which, as outlined by international evidence, achieve the best outcomes for patients.

As part of the breast cancer service it is intended that one radiographer would attend SGH one day a month to undertake follow up mammograms for women in this area who currently travel to Galway.

Despite repeated efforts it has not been possible to date to increase the radiography complement at UCHG. In the circumstances the priority in UCHG is to support the symptomatic service in Galway. The number of women involved is approximately 20 per month who travel to UCHG for their follow up mammograms. When UCHG has sufficient mammography staff it is intended to provide the follow up service in Sligo.

While these posts were prioritised unfortunately given the current financial position the HSE has had to put in place a recruitment pause. As a result these and other positions are currently on hold.

Damien McCallion, ISA Manager, Sligo - Leitrim

W35Q790	Is a public patient who does not hold a valid medical card, obliged to have a bank account and laser/credit card to access in-patient treatment in our general hospitals and to ask does the HSE have a policy or guidelines on the payment of the statutory in-patient charge.	Cllr D Bree
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HSE Response:

No, a public patient is not obliged to have a bank account to access in-patient treatment. Eligibility to health services is not determined by whether the patient has a bank account or laser/credit card but is established with regard to full or limited eligibility under the Health (Amendment) Act 1991.

Payment of the Statutory In-patient charge may be made to GUH, for example, by various methods, detailed below, which do not require the use of a bank account:

- Cash by direct payment to the Patient Accounts Office
- Bank Draft
- Money Order

Payment can also be made by the following methods but in general these payment methods require the use of a bank account:

- Cheque
- Credit/Debit card
- Bank Giro

Dr David O'Keefe, Clinical Director, Acute and Continuing Services, Galway & Roscommon

W35Q791	Recognising that the cancer service in the Mid West Regional Hospital Limerick, has been outsourced to the Mater Private Hospital Ltd and that the MRI and CAT Scans Service in Sligo General Hospital has been outsourced to Euromedic Ltd, can the Forum be informed as to what other services previously provided by the HSE in the Western Region have been outsourced to the private sector; and what proposals, if any, HSE Management has to outsource further services in the foreseeable future.	Cllr D Bree
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HSE Response:

Mayo
No services such as those mentioned below outsourced by Mayo. In fact we now have in house MRI Scanner up and running. Some of this work was previously outsourced.

Roscommon
MRI scans for Roscommon County Hospital are purchased from Euromedic.

Donegal
In Letterkenny General Hospital the Laundry Services have been outsourced to Boco Ltd., this year and the Hospital shop was outsourced to Aramark in 2010.

Sligo/Leitrim
I can confirm that no services previously provided by the HSE are currently being outsourced to Private Providers.

Mid West
Clare
No services currently outsourced Clare Community Services or Mid West Mental Health Services.

Nenagh

The only outsourced service in Nenagh is Linen Service which is provided by Springrove.

Ennis

The only service outsourced here currently is Radiology Reporting which is currently being provided by Global Diagnostics. Approximately 90% of reporting is now done off site with one day's service provided per week from MWRH Dooradoyle and one day per month provided by Global Diagnostics on an on site basis. The cost of provision is comparable to when it was being directly provided with quicker report turnaround times with the new system.

Mid West Regional Hospital Limerick

Further to Cllr Brees query re Cancer Services and outsourcing to the private sector, a small number of services to support the provision of cancer diagnosis, treatment and care are outsourced such as very specific pathology/laboratory tests and the lymphoedema service is part provided by an external provider. As far as possible services are provided by HSE staff. At this time there are no plans to outsource the provision of cancer related services.

W35Q792

To ask what action HSE Management plan to take with regard to the recent HIQA Report on St John's Community Hospital, Sligo, and if there are plans to reduce the number of beds in the hospital; and to ask if there are proposals to cut back on the mental health services in Sligo/Leitrim

Cllr D Bree

HSE Response:

St John's Community Hospital, Sligo has submitted a detailed action plan to the Health Information and Quality Authority which identifies the actions that are being implemented to ensure the hospital complies with regulatory requirements. The key components of the Action Plan are:

- Infrastructural improvements at Ward level
- Full Multidisciplinary review for each residents with family/carer involvement is ongoing and includes both medical and medication review
- Nurse Practice Development champion nominated for each Unit who will role out practice development within St. John's. Training will be provided with the assistance of the National Midwifery Practice Development Unit.
- Nutritional Committee established with input for Dieticians and Service Users.
- Work ongoing on revising Care Plans
- All Policies across the Unit are being reviewed.

In relation to bed reduction within St John's Hospital, we are currently finalising plans to refurbish Cairde Ward which will ensure that the privacy, dignity and comforts of the residents will be improved upon. The refurbishment of Cairde Ward, in accordance with the recommended HIQA Standards, will result in a reduction in beds within St John's.

There are no plans for cut backs in mental health services in Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan and South Donegal. As part of the national budgetary process for 2011 the health services budget was reduced. Mental health services budgets in all areas were reduced by 1.4% as part of this process. In Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan this reduction was dealt with through increased focus on reducing non patient costs and the moratorium.

Our mental health services are currently undergoing a reconfiguration of services based on a multi-disciplinary assessment of all our clients and their needs undertaken over the last eighteen months. This will result in a series of changes over the coming months to ensure clients are receiving the most appropriate service in the optimum setting. For example following the multi-disciplinary assessments some of the clients in our acute mental health units are now capable of moving to supervised residential units. Other older residents with enduring mental health problems may move to our older persons services. As these plans are finalised the service will work with clients, families and staff to ensure that people's needs are best met by the service within the resources available.

Damien McCallion, ISA Manager, Sligo - Leitrim

W35Q793

Please clarify the position in relation to Airgeal Phoil -including how many patients are now resident there and where each patient has been transferred from and whether that place/bed is now occupied by another patient, when the full 7 vacancies will

Cllr C Connolly

	be occupied and what are the HSE West's plans in relation to the provision of qualified nursing and medical staff for the said facility.	
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HSE Response:

Arrangements are in place since September 2010 with a private company, Home Instead Senior Care, to provide supportive care to the patient's resident in Airgeal Phoil/Tearmann Éanna. All of the 5 current residents were formerly resident in Unit 9A, Merlin Park but are originally from the South Connemara/Aran Island area. All are native Irish Speakers. Their beds in Unit 9A have now been discontinued and will not be replaced. There are at least 2 patients who are from the area and avail of respite care in the hostel. This prevents relapse and consequent admission to acute in-patient care.

The service at Tearmann Éanna /Airgeal Phoil is managed and supervised by Home Instead Senior Care. Carer's are all FETEC qualified to level 5 with a mental health module. All Carer's are Garda vetted and have health checks. Training is provided to these Carer's in areas relevant to this work such as ASIST Training and Crisis Prevention Training.

The Carer's are supported by HSE Mental Health Staff. The Assistant Director of Nursing visits the centre weekly and more often as required. Nursing staff from Carraroe visit twice weekly and on a needs basis. The treating Psychiatrist reviews each patient on a three monthly basis and more frequently if indicated. There is a full review meeting of each patient on an annual basis.

Our experience over the last 12 months has shown that his model of service provision is working well.

Tony Canavan, GM, Galway PCCC

W35Q794	Please outline the number of public nursing homes and/or community nursing homes in the Health Forum West Region beginning with Galway City and County and listing each facility with the total number of beds in that facility, the number of beds actually occupied currently, the reasons why beds are unoccupied and the nature of the waiting lists for each facility and please include the relevant units in Merlin Park Hospital.	Cllr C Connolly
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Private Bed Provision

Table 1 provides the summary of beds within the private nursing homes in the HSE West. The information on vacancies within the private sector is not available within the HSE as it is outside our data collection remit.

Galway		
Name	Bed Capacity August 2011	
An Teaghlach Uilinn Retirement & Convalescent Centre		61
Aras Bhride Nursing Home	27	
Ballinderry Nursing Home	50	
Ballygar Nursing Home	16	
Brooklodge Nursing Home	45	
Caiseal Geal Nursing Home	22	
Castleturviin Nursing Home	23	
Central Park Nursing Home	41	
Coral Haven Nursing Home	60	
Corrandulla Residential Nursing Home	37	
Flannery's Nursing Home	47	
Garbally Rest Home	37	
Greenpark Nursing Home	24	
Hillside Nursing Home	27	
Holy Family Nursing Home	36	

Kiltormer Nursing Home	39	
Kilcolgan Nursing Home	48	
Little Flower Nursing Home	50	
Lakelands Nursing Home	32	
Lough Corrib Nursing Home	26	
Maryfield Alzheimer Nursing Home	22	
Mill Race Nursing Home	61	
Mountbellew Nursing Home	27	
Moycullen Nursing Home	53	
Mystical Rose Nursing Home	54	
Nightingale Nursing Home	34	
Oranmore Nursing Home	54	
Owen Riff Nursing Home (reverted to former name)	40	
Pointe Boise Nursing Home (closed) St. Mary's now open	60	
Portumna Retirement Village	62	
Rosemount Nursing Home	40	
Rushmore Nursing Home	28	
Aras Chois Farrage (previously Sacred Heart Nursing Home)	42	
Stella Maris Nursing Home	41	
St. Anne's Nursing Home	18	
St. Columba's Nursing Home	36	
St. David's Nursing Home	15	
St. Francis' Nursing Home	34	
Teach Altranais Charna	56	
The Village Nursing Care Centre	78	
TOTAL	1603	
Limerick		
Name	Bed Capacity August 2011	
Abbot Close Nursing Home	60	
Adare and District Nursing Home	84	
Ard na Ri Nursing Home	25	
Beechlodge Nursing Home	66	
Beechwood House Nursing Home	68	
Caherass Nursing Home	50	
Cahermoyle Nursing Home	43	
Dromcolloghor & District Respite Centre	20	
Good Counsel Nursing Home	28	
Marie Goretti Nursing Home	62	
Killeline Nursing Home	63	
St. Catherines Nursing Home	61	
St. Gobnait's Nursing Home	20	
St. Pauls Nursing Home	52	
Thorpes Nursing Home	26	
TOTAL	728	

Clare		
Name	Bed Capacity August 2011	
Cahercalla Community Hospital	121	
Carrigoran House	114	
Kilrush District Hospital	45	
Lakes Nursing Home	53	
Riverdale House Nursing Home	29	
Sancta Maria Nursing Home	34	
St. Dominic Savio Nursing Home	28	
St. Theresa's Nursing Home	36	
Ennis Nursing Home	60	
Kilrush Nursing Home	46	
TOTAL	566	
Mayo		
Name	Bed Capacity August 2011	
Abbeybreafey Nursing Home	57	
Ave Marie Nursing Home	22	
Ballinamore Nursing Home	42	
Blackrock Nursing Home	50	
Brookvale Manor Nursing Home	57	
Claremount Nursing Home	60	
Cuan Chaitriona Nursing Home	30	
Friar's Lodge Nursing Home	64	
Hollymount Nursing Home	35	
Moy Ridge Nursing Home	47	
Pilgrims Rest Nursing Home	34	
Queen of Peace Nursing Home	27	
St. Anne's Nursing Home	23	
St. Attracta's Nursing Home	53	
St. Brendan's High Support Unit	40	
Ti Aire Nursing Home	47	
TOTAL	417	
Roscommon		
Name	Bed Capacity August 2011	
Cloverhill Nursing Home	56	
Costellos Vale View Nursing Home	33	
Drumderrig Nursing Home	76	
Fearna Elphin Nursing Home	33	
Fearna Manor Nursing Home	53	
Innis Ree Lodge Nursing Home	58	
Meadowlands Nursing Home	30	
Oakwood Nursing Home	36	
Oakwood Private Nursing Home	45	
Shannon Lodge Nursing Home	36	

Tearminn Bhride Nursing Home	29
TOTAL	485

Sligo/Leitrim

Name	Bed Capacity August 2011
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Ard na Greine Nursing Home	58
Bailey's Nursing Home	41
Lough Errill Private Nursing Home	39
Mulross Nursing Home	30
Mowlam Nursing Home	62
Nazareth House (New Building)	50
St. Pheelim's Nursing Home	65
Summerville Healthcare Ltd	45
TOTAL	390

Donegal

Name	Bed Capacity August 2011
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Aras Ghaioth Dobhair Nursing Home	41
Aras Mhic Shuibhne Nursing Home	46
Aras Ui Dhomhnaill Nursing Home	48
Archview Lodge Nursing Home	33
Beach Hill Manor Nursing Home	35
Brentwood Manor Nursing Home	48
Brindley Manor Nursing Home	43
Harbour Lights Nursing Home	53
Hillcrest Nursing Home	34
Lake Hosue Nursing Home	46
Nazareth House Nursing Home	47
St. Eunan's Nursing Home	42
TOTAL	516

Public Bed Provision Based on Occupancy on 26/8/11 and Waiting List Exercise conducted Aug 2011

Unit Name	Total Beds Occupied 26/8/11	Total Beds in Unit	Total Number of Beds Available for Use	Total Temporary Closed Beds	Waiting List for Long Term Care Beds
Clare					
Ennistymon Community Hospital	24	28	28	0	n/a
Raheen Community Hospital	28	28	28	0	Not available
Regina House Kilrush	31	33	33	0	Not available
St. Joseph's Hospital Clare	125	142	132	10	Currently been validated
CLARE TOTAL	208	231	221	10	
Donegal					
Buncrana Community Nursing Unit	30	30	30	0	0
Ramelton Community Nursing Unit	30	30	30	0	0
Carndonagh Community Nursing	42	48	42	6	5

Unit					
Donegal Town Community Hospital	29	29	29	0	0
Dungloe Community Hospital	30	35	30	5	0
Falcarragh Community Hospital	35	35	30	5	0
Killybegs Community Hospital	41	41	41	0	0
Lifford Community Hospital	20	20	20	0	0
Rock Community Nursing Unit	22	22	22	0	0
Shiel Community Hospital	34	34	34	0	6
St. Josephs Comm Hosp Donegal	78	78	78	0	0
DONEGAL TOTAL	391	402	386	16	
GALWAY					
Aras Mac Dara	52	54	54	0	Not available
Arus Mhuire	24	23	23	0	3
Aras Ronan	12	12	12	0	1
Clifden District Hospital	33	33	33	0	3
St. Anne's CNU	24	24	24	0	Not available
St. Brendans Home	100	100	100	0	7
S. Francis CNU	19	20	19	0	0
Unit 5 & 6 Merlin Park	47	49	49	0	Not Available currently
GALWAY TOTAL	311	315	315	0	
LIMERICK					
St. Camillus Hosp	149	149	149	0	4
St. Itas Hospital	125	126	126	0	5
LIMERICK TOTAL	274	275	275	0	
MAYO					
Dalton Community Nursing Unit	36	30	30	0	0
Belmullet District Hospital	59	76	57	19	0
Swinford District Hospital	43	40	40	0	
McBride Community Unit	32	30	30	0	0
Sacred Heart Hospital	139	134	134	0	0
St. Augustine's Comm Nursing Unit	34	34	34	0	0
St. Fionnan's Community Nursing Unit	32	32	32	0	0
St. Joseph's District Hospital	63	62	62	0	
MAYO TOTAL	438	438	419	19	
ROSCOMMON					
Aras Mathair Pol Community Nursing Unit	30	30	30	0	33
Plunkett Community Nursing Unit	41	41	41	0	6
Sacred Heart Hospital	94	95	95	0	29
ROSCOMMON TOTAL	165	166	166	0	
SLIGO/LEITRIM					
Arus Breffni	31	31	25	6	0
Arus Carolan	40	40	40	0	0
Our Lady's Hospital	35	35	32	3	Not Available
St John's Community Hospital	195	195	187	8	1
St Patrick's Community Hospital	112	112	112	0	0
SLIGO/LEITRIM TOTAL	413	413	396	17	
TIPPERARY/EAST LIMERICK					
Hospital of the Assumption	67	67	67	0	0
St. Conlon's Community Nursing Unit	24	24	24	0	0
Dean Maxwell Community Nursing Unit	33	33	33	0	0

TIPPERARY/EAST					
LIMERICK TOTAL	124	124	124	0	
TOTAL	2316	2394	2302	62	

Mr Paschal Moynihan, Specialist, Older Persons Services

W35Q795

Please clarify the situation in relation to Area Medical Officers in Galway City and County including what is the full complement of staff and how many Area Medical Doctors are now actually employed and working on community care teams and indicating where there are vacancies and similarly what is the situation re school nurses - that is the full complement as opposed to how many are actually working currently and where there are vacancies.

Cllr C Connolly

HSE Response:

Galway Primary Community and Continuing Care currently have a complement of 8 School Public Health Nurse posts. 3 post holders have retired during 2011. We reassigned an existing member of staff to this service. This means we currently have 6 School Public Health Nurses in post.

We currently have an approved ceiling of 9.5 WTE between Area Medical Officers and Senior Medical Officers. As of August 2011, 7.5 of these WTE's were filled, leaving a shortfall of 2 WTE's. The grade of Area Medical Officer and Senior Medical Officer are not exempted under the Moratorium on Public Service Recruitment.

Tony Canavan, GM, Galway PCCC

W35Q796

Please clarify whether any extra nursing staff have been employed in relation to theatre work and indeed any other area in the Galway hospitals in the last two months.

Cllr C Connolly

HSE Response:

There has been no extra nursing staff recruited in GUH over the last two months, either in Theatre or elsewhere.

Below, you will note some adjustments in nursing personnel, but there is no net increase.

The position is as follows:

Theatre

There was approval (23rd June 2011) for the 12 nurses (Nurse Graduates) (sent to NRS for filling on 27th June) from the RDO to be trained as Theatre Nurses.

The other 2 approvals are attached – 2 WTEs under the Cancer Strategy (May 2011) and the remaining 2.5 WTEs from the 3.5 approved by the NCCP in October 2010.

The NRS got 5 suitable candidates from the recent interviews held for Theatres and GUH are waiting on an update on their processing.

In summary, there has only been 1 WTE actually filled (April 2011) and the remaining 16.5 WTEs for Theatre are still outstanding.

Other

With respect to ‘...any other areas...’ some Nurses have returned from Career Breaks since July – 3.30 WTEs approximately.

The only other positive changes have been in the very recent approval to retain 33 WTEs from the Graduates for General Nursing and the 4 WTEs from the Graduates in Midwifery. These will be in place until the end of December only (although 2 of the Midwives are to receive a Contract of Indefinite Duration under a national agreement with respect to Sponsored HCAs who have trained as Midwives/Nurses).

Dr David O'Keeffe, Clinical Director, Acute and Continuing Services, Galway & Roscommon

W35Q797	Can you confirm to me how many ward's are currently closed in UCHG and Merlin Park, and what plan's are in place to close ward's between now and Christmas.	Cllr M Hoade
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HSE Response:

Currently there are no wards closed in UHG, the breakdown of closed beds is as follows

St Enda's Ward – 16 (7 day beds closed)
 St Monicas Ward 13 beds closed (8 day beds and 5 7 day beds)
 St Bernadette's 8 Beds Closed

Regarding MPUH

No Closures other than those units permanently closed. (Unit 8, Unit 3 and Unit 1)

There are no plans in place to close wards between now and Christmas.

Dr David O'Keeffe, Clinical Director, Acute and Continuing Services, Galway & Roscommon

W35Q798	Can you confirm to me if we are currently providing Dental cover to children in Primary school's in all the Galway City and County Primary School's. What are the current waiting times for orthodontic treatment in the Galway area.	Cllr M Hoade
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HSE Response:

There are a number of aspects to the dental service being offered by the HSE in County Galway.

The routine School Dental Service is available in most Schools throughout the county. This is largely a preventative service aimed at 2nd, 4th and 6th class children. We are not currently able to provide this service in a number of Schools in the South Galway area. This arises because of the non replacement of retired staff. However, emergency dental care for children under 16 years is still provided. In many cases a same day service is offered. School screening continues to be provided throughout the county. This includes orthodontic assessment and onward referral where appropriate. This screening process also helps to identify high priority patients where intervention is required. There has been a temporary reduction in service in the Gort area, as our dental clinic suffered flood damage in 2010. Works will be commencing over the coming weeks on the necessary repairs. In addition our Dental Department also provide a General Anaesthetic Service for high priority complex cases in UCHG.

We are currently planning a programme of minor works for our Dental Suites throughout the county to ensure they continue to meet appropriate Infection Control standards.

Tony Canavan, GM, Galway PCCC

The current waiting time for Orthodontic Treatment is 18 months

Dr David O'Keeffe, Clinical Director, Acute and Continuing Services, Galway & Roscommon

W35Q799	Can I have an update on the Tuam Ambulance base and the funding available for same?	Cllr M Hoade
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HSE Response:

Builders will be on site on the 3rd September with sufficient funding allocated for build and equipping allocated in 2011/2012. Estimated completion 9 months/12months

Paudie O'Riordan, Area Operations Manager – West, Ambulance Service

W35Q800	Has any progress been made in relation to the appointment of a Senior Audiologist in the Galway area. What stage are we at with regard to the recruitment of one for the Galway area?	Cllr M Hoade										
<p>HSE Response: The post of Senior Audiological Scientist was re advertised on the 16th September 2011. The closing date for applications is the 07th October 2011. It is anticipated that the interview process will commence at the end of October early November 2011. <i>Tony Canavan, GM, Galway PCCC</i></p>												
W35Q801	When will AMU be operational in UHG. Will the required number of Physicians and Nurses be sanctioned.	Cllr P Conneely										
<p>HSE Response: The process to commence the AMU will begin at the end of November, but it will involve a change over process, and it is planned that the AMU will be fully operational by the end of January. Three Consultant posts have been submitted to national level for approval, but there is a national recruitment pause at present and this may delay the appointment of locums, until the permanent posts are advertised and filled. We will be looking for Regional/National support to back fill nursing posts to staff the new AMU, but the current recruitment pause may have a possibly negative effect. <i>Dr David O'Keefe, Clinical Director, Acute and Continuing Services, Galway & Roscommon</i></p>												
W35Q802	What is the amount outstanding to UHG/Merlin Park from Private Health Insurance companies at the 31 st August 2011 – and how much is over 12 months outstanding.	Cllr P Conneely										
<p>HSE Response: The amount outstanding to GUH from Private health Insurance Companies at 31st July 2011 is €18.804m of which €6.501m is over 12 months old. <i>Mr Liam Minihan, Asst. National Director, Finance</i></p>												
W35Q803	What is the current overspend for UHG and Merlin Park.	Cllr P Conneely										
<p>HSE Response: The budget position at 31st July 2011 at GUH is as follows:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="264 1417 834 1576"> <thead> <tr> <th>July</th> <th>€m</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Actual ytd</td> <td>177.794</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Budget ytd</td> <td>166.760</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Overspend</td> <td>11.034</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Annual budget</td> <td>248.080</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Various cost containment measures are being implemented to reduce this deficit. <i>Mr Liam Minihan, Asst. National Director, Finance</i></p>			July	€m	Actual ytd	177.794	Budget ytd	166.760	Overspend	11.034	Annual budget	248.080
July	€m											
Actual ytd	177.794											
Budget ytd	166.760											
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Annual budget	248.080											
W35Q804	Are all GP's in County Galway in compliance in dispensing prescriptions to patients to choose a pharmacy of their choice.	Cllr P Conneely										
<p>HSE Response: 148 General Practitioners have contracts with the HSE for the provision of medical services to eligible patients in Galway City and County. Paragraph 18 of the GMS Contract states: “<i>The medical practitioner shall prescribe such drugs and medicines as he considers necessary for any person for whom he is obliged to provide services</i>”. The person receiving the prescription takes it to a pharmacy of their choice to have it dispensed. 96 pharmacies have contracts with the HSE in Galway City and County at the present time. All GP's are currently operating in accordance with the terms of their contracts with the HSE. Where breaches of contract are reported they are investigated and pursued appropriately.</p>												

Where there is no pharmacy within three miles of a GP's surgery the GP is entitled to dispense medicines directly to the patients in accordance with Paragraph 20 of the GMS Contract which states: *"The medical practitioner shall dispense drugs, medicines and appliances for any person for whom he is obliged to provide services and for whom, in accordance with the arrangements directed by the Minister, he has liability to dispense"*. There are 14 dispensing GP's in Galway City and County at the present time.

Tony Canavan, GM, Galway PCCC

W35Q805	Completion date for new extension to Mid West Regional Hospital Ennis.	Cllr T McNamara
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HSE Response:

The scheduled handover date is October 14th.

Bernard Gloster, ISA Manager, Mid West

W35Q806	Expected opening date and details of services to be delivered in new extension.	Cllr T McNamara
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HSE Response:

Opening date is anticipated to be March 2012 (as outlined some weeks back in the local media). The services provided will be 50 single rooms with en-suite and this facility will replace our current "nightingale" type wards.

Bernard Gloster, ISA Manager, Mid West

W35Q807	Outline what Day Care and diagnostic services will be available in Mid west Regional hospital Ennis and timeframe for same.	Cllr T McNamara
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HSE Response:

The day care services currently available are general, plastic, vascular, dental, colorectal and maxillo facial surgery as well as surgery in urology and gynaecology with minor ENT procedures carried out in our Outpatient Department. It is envisaged that Orthopaedics and Dermatology will be developed on site but no clear dates are yet known for these developments as funding is required to commence both services.

From a diagnostic perspective, MWRH Ennis currently offers general x-ray, inpatient CT and Ultrasonography from our X-Ray department. Cardiac diagnostics in the form of ECG, Stress ECG, Cardiac Echo Studies and 24 hr Holter monitoring are available. We also offer Endoscopy Services and are one of Ireland's 15 Candidate Colonoscopy Screening centres. Our recently constructed two room Endoscopy Suite is complete and we expect to become operational from a symptomatic service perspective on October 10th. Screening will commence in line with NCCS rollout in the 2nd Quarter of 2012 if Ennis is selected as a screening centre.

Bernard Gloster, ISA Manager, Mid West

W35Q808	Can you please outline the HSE Policy regarding Rent Supplement Payments where the recipients are found to engage in anti-social behaviour. What role does the HSE take in these situations?	Cllr S Cunniffe
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HSE Response:

HSE no longer responsible for policy in this area. This is a matter for the Department of Social Protection.

Mr Tony Quilty, Social Inclusion Specialist

W35Q809	In view of the scaremongering that has taken place in the last number of weeks over the closure of Macbride Home in Westport, could I have a guarantee that the unit will not be closed in the near future.	Cllr A O' Malley
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HSE Response:

The HSE has not at any stage intimated to staff or publicly that it has any plans to close McBride CNU. Approval is awaited for the filling of the Director of Nursing Post, which is currently vacant.

Frank Murphy, ISA Manager, Mayo

W35Q810	To ask the number of bed closures planned at St. Augustines Home in Ballina -are any staff reductions planned and what development plans are in place for the Home.	Cllr A May Reape
<p>HSE Response: Currently there are 5 beds closed in St. Augustines due to the non- filling of posts under the moratorium, as management must have regard to safe levels of care. Frank Murphy, ISA Manager, Mayo</p>		
W35Q811	Am requesting a report on the recent breach of patient confidentiality at Ballina District Hospital.	Cllr A May Reape
<p>HSE Response: The hospital has now completed their investigation and it has been established that there was a breach of the Hospital's policy concerning the requirement for the onsite shredding of such working notes. It appears that, in breach of hospital policy, this documentation was in fact removed from the hospital and improperly disposed of and subsequently discovered by a Litter Warden in Ballina.</p> <p>The utmost importance of adherence to hospital's policy regarding the shredding of such daily worksheets into the shredders (which are provided on site) has been re-enforced to all of our staff across the hospital, with a view to ensuring that there is no reoccurrence of this type of issue in relation to confidential and sensitive hospital documentation.</p> <p>Following on from the conclusion of our investigation of the matter, we are now satisfied, that the necessary and appropriate steps have now been taken to ensure that such breaches do not occur again. Michael Fahey, Older Peoples Services, Mayo</p>		
W35Q812	Are the Board contemplating any more bed closures in the 3 District Hospitals in Mayo (Ballina-Swinford-Belmullet) where there is a huge requirement for step-down beds and care for the Elderly.	Cllr A May Reape
<p>HSE Response There are no more immediate bed closures planned in respect of the 3 District Hospitals. In fact 10 of the beds closed in Belmullet, due to 5 staff availing of maternity leave are short-term and are expected to re-open in 2012, when these 5 staff return to duty. Frank Murphy, ISA Manager, Mayo</p>		