

# **Minutes of Meeting of the Regional Health Forum West, Held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July, 2009 at 2.00pm in Room 1, Education Centre, Health Service Executive West, Merlin Park, Galway.**

Miontuairiscí cruinnithe an Fhóiraim Réigiúnach Sláinte, ar an 14 Iúil 2009 ag 2.00 i.n, an tIonad Oideachais, Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte, Páirc Mheirlinne, Gaillimh.

## **Chairperson/Cathaoirleach**

Councillor Catherine Connolly, outgoing Vice-Chairperson presided

## **Members Present/Comhaltaí i Láthair**

Cllr Liam Blaney	Cllr Mary Hoade	Cllr Brian Meaney
Cllr Declan Bree	Cllr Michael Hourigan	Cllr Michael Mullins
Cllr Rose Brennan	Cllr Gordon Hughes	Cllr Paul Murphy
Tim Broderick	Cllr Colm Keaveney	Cllr Gerry Murray
Cllr Ciaran Brogan	Cllr John Kelly	Cllr Malachy Noone
Cllr Richard Butler	Cllr John Kennedy	Cllr Austin Francis O'Malley
Cllr John Carroll	Cllr Frank McBrearty Jr	Cllr Annie May Reape
Cllr Padraig Conneely	Cllr Sean McGowan	Cllr Gerry Reynolds
Cllr Tom Connolly	Cllr John "Rocky" McGrath	Cllr Jerome Scanlan
Cllr Joe Cooney	Cllr Bernard McGuinness	Cllr Kevin Sheahan
Cllr Ger Fahy	Cllr Gerry McLoughlin	Cllr Tony Ward
Cllr Laurence Fallon	Cllr Tom McNamara	Cllr Seamus Weir
Cllr Imelda Henry		

## **Apologies/Leithscéalta**

Councillor Jimmy Harte

## **Absent/As Láthair**

Councillor Michael Crowe

## **In Attendance/I láthair freisin**

Dr Seán Conroy, Director, Regional Health Office, HSE West  
Mr Seamus McNulty, Asst. National Director, PCCC, HSE West  
Mr John Hennessy, Hospital Network Manager, HSE West  
Mr Alan Moran, Hospital Network Manager, HSE West  
Dr Jacky Jones, Functional Manager, Health Promotion, HSE West  
Mr Paudie O'Riordan, Ambulance Officer, HSE West  
Mr Kevin Little, A/Asst Nat Director, Human Resources, HSE West  
Mr Seamus Gallagher, Senior Administrative Officer, Regional Health Office, HSE West  
Ms Shirley Murphy, A/Section Officer, Regional Health Office, HSE West

## **Apologies/Leithscéalta**

Mr Pauric Sheerin, Chief Ambulance Officer, HSE West  
Mr Pat Daly, Chief Ambulance Officer, HSE West

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## **228/22/09 Chairperson/Cathaoirleach**

Councillor Catherine Connolly, outgoing Vice-Chairperson of the Forum, opened the Meeting and welcomed all new members and existing members of the Forum to the first Meeting of the re-configured Regional Health Forum West.

She stated that she was chairing the Meeting due to the fact that the outgoing Chairperson, Councillor Tomás Mannion, although re-elected through Galway County Council, was not re-elected to the Regional Health Forum.

She welcomed all newly elected members to the first Annual Meeting of the new Regional Health Forum and wished them well for the future.

She paid tribute to the outgoing members of the Forum, both those re-elected and not re-elected, for their commitment and co-operation with the functioning of the outgoing Regional Health Forum. She paid tribute to the outgoing Chairperson, Councillor Tomás Mannion, for his efficient and fair operation of the role of Chairperson of the Forum. She thanked members of the press and local radio for their coverage of the workings of the Forum. She then went on to say that she felt that outgoing Regional Health Forum had worked reasonably well, taking on board the fact that its mission was mainly in relation to representation. She was concerned regarding the lack of feedback from HSE Management in relation to Motions unanimously passed by the Forum. She was also concerned regarding the development of the health services particularly in relation to the lack of investment in public health services, the continuation of privatisation of the services and the reduction in funding in the current budgets. She thanked the Executive, Dr. Conroy, Director and his staff for their support with the workings of the Forum. She wished the new Regional Health Forum well in its endeavours.

### **229/22/09 Election of Chairperson/Toghachán an Chathaoirligh**

Councillor Padraig Conneely was proposed by Councillor Richard Butler and seconded by Councillor Joe Cooney. As there were no other nominations, Councillor Conneely was deemed elected and took over the Chair.

Councillor Conneely thanked Councillor Connolly for chairing the meeting and also paid tribute to Councillor Tomás Mannion, outgoing Chairperson of the Regional Health Forum. He also wished to compliment and thank the outgoing members of the Regional Health Forum, both elected and not re-elected for their contributions to the working of the Regional Health Forum. He thanked his proposer and seconder and stated that it is a great honour for him to be elected to Chairperson of the Regional Health Forum.

He stated that he was concerned regarding a number of issues in the health services such as patients waiting long periods on trolleys in A & E Department, considerable waiting lists, particularly 23,000 in Galway University Hospitals, elimination of the public/private tier health system, the development of Primary Care in a safe environment, best practice and safe practices in all services, equal treatment for equal need and a system of funding to ensure that funds follow patients, treatment at local hospitals to be safe and available for less complex cases and support to the local communities. He felt that the ill and the elderly had a right to a quality of life.

He thanked members for electing him Chairperson of the Regional Health Forum.

### **230/22/09 Election of Vice-Chairperson/Toghachán an Leas-Cathaoirligh**

Councillor Ciaran Brogan was proposed by Councillor Sean McGowan and seconded by Councillor Liam Blaney.

Councillor Michael Hourigan was proposed by Councillor Joe Cooney and seconded by Councillor Gerry Reynolds.

A vote then ensued and the outcome was:

#### **Councillor Brogan's votes:**

Cllr Liam Blaney	Cllr John Kennedy	Cllr Tom McNamara
Cllr Ciaran Brogan	Cllr Frank McBrearty Jr	Cllr Brian Meaney
Cllr John Carroll	Cllr Sean McGowan	Cllr Malachy Noone
Cllr Mary Hoade	Cllr John "Rocky" McGrath	Cllr Annie May Reape
Cllr Colm Keaveney	Cllr Gerry McLoughlin	Cllr Kevin Sheahan

**Total of 15**

**Cllr Hourigan's votes**

Cllr Rose Brennan  
Cllr Tim Broderick  
Cllr Richard Butler  
Cllr Padraig Conneely  
Cllr Catherine Connolly  
Cllr Tom Connolly  
Cllr Joe Cooney

Cllr Ger Fahy  
Cllr Laurence Fallon  
Cllr Imelda Henry  
Cllr Michael Hourigan  
Cllr Gordon Hughes  
Cllr Bernard McGuinness  
Cllr Michael Mullins

Cllr Paul Murphy  
Cllr Gerry Murray  
Cllr Austin Francis O'Malley  
Cllr Gerry Reynolds  
Cllr Jerome Scanlan  
Cllr Seamus Weir

**Total of 20 votes****Abstain:**

Cllr Declan Bree  
Cllr John Kelly  
Cllr Tony Ward

Councillor Michael Hourigan was deemed elected Vice-Chairperson

**231/22/09 Chairman's Business/Gnothai an Chathaoirligh**

The Chairperson, on behalf of the Forum, congratulated Councillors Gerry Murray and Tony Ward on being elected Mayors of Counties Sligo and Roscommon respectively.

The Meeting was then adjourned in order to arrange photographs of representatives of each Local Authority with the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Regional Health Forum.

**232/22/09 Establishment of the Regional Health Forums**

Following resumption, Dr. Séan Conroy, Director of the Regional Health Office, made a Presentation on the Legislation and Regulations with respect to the Regional Health Forums and with specific reference to the Regional Health Forum West. The Presentation covered the following:

- Health Act 2004
- Health Act 2004 -Part 8 -Public Representation and User Participation
- Section 42 of the Health Act which set up the Regional Health Forums
- Introduction of Regional Health Forums on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2006
- Details regarding the four Regional Health Forums in Ireland,
- Service locations in the HSE West Area
- Budgets, staff, premises, area population of the HSE West Area
- HSE organisational structure
- Local Elections
- Committees of the Forum
- Standing Orders, Housekeeping, etc.

In replies to questions raised, he stated that the Regional Operations Director will be filled by way of reconfiguration within the HSE and also support staff will be filled by way of reconfiguration within the HSE. No extra posts will be created.

**233/22/09 Formation of Regional Health Forum Committees**

Dr. Séan Conroy, Director of the Regional Health Office informed members that the composition of Committees was a matter for the membership of the Regional Health Forum to decide and agree.

Councillor Gerry Reynolds proposed that the two existing Committees would remain in place i.e. Primary, Community & Continuing Care Committee and Hospital Committee. This proposal was seconded by Councillor Declan Bree.

Councillor Brian Meaney proposed that the Regional Health Forum should establish two new Committees, one to deal with the financial situation facing the HSE and a second to deal with the

service implications, of the financial situation, within the HSE. This proposal was seconded by Councillor Colm Keaveney.

A vote was taken by a show of hands and it was approved that the existing two Committees would remain in place.

Members asked that the Director would ensure in future that Committee Meetings would not coincide with meetings of both Regional Authorities.

It was then agreed that members would be asked to outline, by way of roll call, which Committee they wished to participate in. The following was the result:

#### **Hospital Committee**

Cllr Rose Brennan	Cllr Laurence Fallon	Cllr Paul Murphy
Cllr Ciaran Brogan	Cllr Imelda Henry	Cllr Gerry Murray
Cllr Richard Butler	Cllr Colm Keaveney	Cllr Malachy Noone
Cllr John Carroll	Cllr John Kennedy	Cllr Austin Francis O'Malley
Cllr Padraig Conneely	Cllr John "Rocky" McGrath	Cllr Gerry Reynolds
Cllr Tom Connolly	Cllr Brian Meaney	Cllr Kevin Sheahan
Cllr Ger Fahy	Cllr Michael Mullins	Cllr Seamus Weir

#### **21 Members**

#### **PCCC Committee**

Cllr Liam Blaney	Cllr Michael Hourigan	Cllr Gerry McLoughlin
Cllr Declan Bree	Cllr Gordon Hughes	Cllr Tom McNamara
Cllr Tim Broderick	Cllr John Kelly	Cllr Annie May Reape
Cllr Catherine Connolly	Cllr Sean McGowan	Cllr Jerome Scanlan
Cllr Joe Cooney	Cllr Bernard McGuinness	Cllr Tony Ward
Cllr Mary Hoade		

#### **16 Members**

Total number of members on the Hospital Committee is 21 and the PCCC Committee is 16.

Councillor Frank McBrearty Jr asked that he be given time to consider which Committee he wished to opt for. Councillors Jimmy Harte and Michael Crowe were not present at the meeting.

The next meetings of the Committee are scheduled as follows:

*Primary, Community & Continuing Care Committee* **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2009 at 2.00pm in Room 1, Education Centre, Merlin Park, Galway**

*Hospital Committee Meeting* **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2009 at 2.00pm in Room 1, Education Centre, Merlin Park, Galway**

It was also agreed that the local meetings between Regional Health Forum members and local Hospital, PCCC and Ambulance Managers would continue.

#### **234/22/09 Minutes/Miontuairiscí**

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2009 were proposed by Councillor Tony Ward seconded by Councillor Colm Keaveney and adopted.

#### **Quorum**

Councillor Meaney referred to the fact that the last meeting ended due to lack of quorum. He felt that the Minutes should record the number of members present and the time of the cessation. He felt that this was necessary given that important business was deferred due to a lack of quorum.

It was agreed that Dr Séan Conroy, Director would examine the Standing Orders and check as to whether such items needed to be recorded in the Minutes.

#### Incident St. John's Hospital, Sligo

Councillor Declan Bree stated that he was very concerned that despite the fact that he had raised the matter on a number of occasions at various Regional Health Forum and Primary, Community & Continuing Care Meetings, that the matter had not been resolved. He was very concerned that assurances given at all such meetings by the HSE Management had not been honoured. He stated that a letter had been re-issued in the last week or so regarding the matter.

In reply, Mr Seamus McNulty, Assistant National Director, PCCC, stated that he had arranged recently for the Local Management to write to the family to establish if they still want to meet him. As soon as a reply is received, he will arrange to meet the family.

### **235/22/09 Questions/Ceisteanna**

#### **W22Q436 – Councillor Declan Bree**

"That the Health Forum be informed of the full contents of the letter from the General Manager of University Hospital, Galway to the HSE, (the contents of which were leaked to the media) which warns of the risks to patients and staff that will arise as a result of the €15M cutback in funding and which requests the HSE to bring the matter to the attention of Prof Tom Keane because of the 'devastating impact on our ability to deliver Cancer Services in accordance with the National Cancer Programme'."

#### **HSE Reply:**

##### **Item 1:**

Our Ref. GM/AMF/B8/B8A/C3B

9<sup>th</sup> June 2009

Ms. Chris Kane,  
Regional Co-ordinator,  
Western Hospitals Group,  
HSE West,  
Merlin Park, Galway.

**Re: Revised Break Even Plan**

Dear Ms. Kane,

*Please find attached the plan required to effect breakeven within Galway University Hospitals. €1.6 m of our plan is dependent on the Network facilitating the more efficient use of common services/resources within the Network Hospitals. I see this as the sole responsibility of the Network as the original allocation by the Network penalised GUH due to the size of its budget, rather than the service provided to its catchment area as a secondary and tertiary referral hospital.*

*In the budget plan submitted on the 29/04/09, I outlined Scenarios 1 & 2 Savings Plans. Scenario 1 identified proposed measures to achieve a shortfall in our budget and minimise impact on patient care. These measures included building on the control measures put in place in 2008 and the reconfiguration of services across two sites resulting in €8.489m savings. I indicated then that Scenario 2 which required a further €6m saving would seriously impact on all frontline services including cancer services.*

*The percentage change in budget from 2007 to 2009 was 5.7% for the network. This recognised the shortfall in funding within the Network as comparable hospitals to GUH around the country had an increase of 4.3% over this period, however GUH's increase for this period was 2.3%. In monetary terms this would have equated to €6m in*

*Network terms and €4m in comparable hospital terms. GUH is the tertiary referral hospital for the Network and the designated Cancer Centre and consequently should not be treated adversely.*

*Furthermore, the adjustments now required to GUH's budget, WTE's and services do not take cognisance of the corrections necessary for specific developments in cancer services and staffing adjustments within GUH which were agreed at national and local level.*

*As discussed at our meeting with Ms. Ann Doherty and Mr. Liam Woods, we identified the posts which were put in place in good faith following agreement with the Network Manager. These included 25 posts which were cost neutral through abolition of Nursing and HCA overtime to facilitate the introduction of the 37.5 hour week, the conversion of 33 agency posts as part of our 2008 Savings Plan which impacted on 2009 WTE figures.*

*Currently GUH provide a number of services which would be more appropriately provided in PCCC. These services include orthodontics service, continuing care unit, teen parenting programme and orthotics and are within our budget and WTE ceiling. We have not been successful to date in transferring these services on a cost neutral basis.*

*The closures outlined will result in the inefficient use of resources allocated to the hospital in particular in surgical services, radiotherapy, laboratory, radiology and oncology. These closures are to frontline services and impact on direct patient care and I must question why no effort has been made locally or regionally to address the central services of HR, Finance and Corporate Affairs which are duplicated across the region in the old Health Boards, Galway and Manorhamilton. Furthermore efficiencies across the combined PCCC and NHO for HR, Finance, Materials and Administration have not been tackled and such changes would not impinge on direct patient care.*

*The resultant effect of these changes has adversely reflected on the reputation of these Hospitals and its Management.*

*As General Manager of GUH, I wish to place on record my very serious concerns about the risk management issues for patients and staff, which will result from the implementation of this further €6m savings plan.*

*I request you to bring this matter to the attention of Prof. Tom Keane Director, NCCP without delay because of the devastating impact on our ability to deliver cancer services in accordance with NCCP.*

*Yours sincerely,*

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*Ms. Bridget Howley,  
General Manager,  
Galway University Hospitals.*

*C.c. Ms. Ann Doherty, National Hospitals Office, Dr. Mary Hynes, National Cancer Control Programme, Executive Management Team, GUH, Hospital Management Team, GUH*

**Item 2:**



**Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive**

**WESTERN HOSPITAL GROUP**

**Merlin Park, Galway  
Tel: 091 775 404  
Fax: 091 770203**

2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2009.

Mr. Ulick Burke, T.D.,  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
DUBLIN, 2.

Re: RDR/09/0639 - Proposed Budget Cuts - University Hospital, Galway.

Dear Deputy Burke,

Your representations dated 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2009, addressed to the Chief Executive Officer, Health Service Executive, have been referred to me for attention. The following outlines the position.

Galway University Hospitals have planned a range of measures to manage services within their budget for this year of €262 million. The hospital's actual expenditure in 2008 was €288 million. All hospitals, nationally, have a reduced allocation this year.

The savings measures cover the range of premium payments, overtime, allowances, holiday service schedules, administration, travel, training, maintenance, equipment replacement, etc and have been designed to minimise any direct impact on services to patients. However, it will also be necessary to introduce some bed closures and staff reductions.

34 beds in Merlin Park University Hospital have been closed. This has been offset by the opening of the new 13-bed Medical Assessment Unit at University Hospital Galway, which will allow rapid diagnosis and treatment of emergency patients, reducing the need for them to wait in the Emergency Department for assessment. This Unit opened in June, 2009.

These measures are essential to managing the financial challenges this year. They have been designed to allow the hospitals to continue to deliver the services planned for 2009 within the funding available and maintaining service quality and patient safety.

I think you are referring to a budget proposal from Management at Galway University Hospitals, which has not been accepted by the HSE. We are continuing to work with the hospital to ensure that any savings measures necessary have minimal impact on the level of patient services.

Yours sincerely,

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Alan Moran  
Manager - Western Hospital Group.

**W22Q437 – Councillor Declan Bree**

*“To ask what is the current status of the Government proposal to transfer the Breast Cancer Service from Sligo General Hospital to University Hospital Galway and to ask if the proposed transition team has been established, and to ask who are the members of the transition team, and further, taking into consideration the devastating impact that current cut backs will have on the ability of University Hospital Galway to deliver cancer services in accordance with the National Cancer Control Programme, can Professor Keane and the HSE given a written guarantee that any existing resources and services which are currently available to breast cancer patients in Sligo General Hospital would at a minimum be available at UHG and that no patient would be disadvantaged in terms of the transfer of breast cancer services from Sligo to Galway.”*

**HSE Reply:**

Only a part of the Cancer services are transferring to University Hospital Galway. Medical oncology services will continue to be provided at Sligo General Hospital. Patients will continue to have their chemotherapy and outpatient radiation oncology appointments at SGH. Current arrangements to provide supportive or palliative care will remain unchanged.

Arrangements are now being put in place at the Symptomatic Breast Unit in University Hospital Galway to accommodate new symptomatic breast referrals shortly. General Practitioners will be notified in advance of the date from which Sligo General Hospital will no longer accept new symptomatic breast referrals. Detailed information about the Galway service and information, including application form, in relation to the Travel2Care scheme administered by the Irish Cancer Society will also be given to GPs.

The National Cancer Control Programme established a transition team to plan the transfer of services from Sligo General Hospital. The transition team is being led by Dr Mary Hynes, Cancer Network Manager West. Meetings and discussions have been held with managerial, nursing and clinical staff in Sligo General Hospital and Galway University Hospital. Other staff are involved as appropriate.

The NCCP has received assurances from hospital management in UHG and the National Hospitals Office that no cuts will be made in Cancer services or in the Cancer budget for Galway. The Cancer Programme is a high priority for the HSE and for government and the funding that has been put in place is secure.

**W22Q438 – Councillor Declan Bree**

*“That the Health Forum be provided with up to date details including the identity of each property rented by the Health Service Executive in Sligo and Leitrim and the annual rent paid for each of the said properties, and further to ask if the HSE has planning permission for its various offices in Sligo including offices located at 25, Pearse Crescent, Sligo., at St Francis the Mall, Sligo, and at 10, The Mall, Sligo, and to ask if HSE management ensures that all planning requirements are fulfilled in advance of leasing or renting private properties for HSE use.”*

**HSE Reply:**

The member was already provided with details of rentals in March 2009 (copy of that response attached).

The template outlined the:-

- Location of the Rental
- Date of the Rental Agreement
- Purpose of the Lease
- Service Area Utilising the Lease
- Area in Sq feet.

The HSE have an agenda to significantly reduce the volumes and costs of rentals and are working actively on the agenda. The Local Health Office in Sligo/Leitrim have occupied part of the “Old Nazareth House” for the provision of Clinical and associated services. This approach will facilitate the termination of some of the existing leases and facilitate a more integrated approach to service delivery.



The HSE is actively re-negotiating all rentals to achieve significant reductions, and to terminate other leases. Accordingly, the member will appreciate that it would not be appropriate to put in to the public domain costs per square metre for each facility.

In relation to Planning Permission, part of the lease requirement mandates that the proprietor holds appropriate Planning Permission.

In relation to named properties the following is the response:-

**25 Pearse Crescent**

This facility, is used by the “Learning and After Care Services” to educate/train clients leaving the “Care System” in terms of domestic/living Skills – activities of daily living. Accordingly, it is used as a “domestic home” setting and does not require Planning Permission.

**St Francis, The Mall**

Planning Permission has been granted for use as “office type” accommodation.

**10 The Mall**

The terms of the lease require the landlord to have “Planning Permission” of use of office-type accommodation.

Property Rented by HSE Sligo/Leitrim	Date on which Rental Agreement was Entered Into	Purpose	Service	Area - Sq Ft	
32 Oaklands, Carrick-on-Shannon, County Leitrim	20/08/2003	Ambulance Base	Ambulance Service	1500	approx.
Mast at Truskmore and Cairn Hill	01/01/1998	Use of RTE Mast for Ambulance Service	Ambulance Service	n/a	
Cluainin Lane, Sligo Road, Manorhamilton, Co. Leitrim	22/06/2000	Ambulance Base	Ambulance Service	1200	approx.
1A Ballytivnan, Sligo	01/09/2004	Treatment Room	Autism Service	861	
No. 17, Mail Coach Road, Sligo	01/06/2004	Outreach Team	Learning Disabilities Service	1746	
Lios na nOg, 1, Glendallon, Ballinode, Sligo	01/01/1998	Residential - Children's Centre	Child Care - Social Work	Residential Letting	
3-4 Willow Grove, Leitrim Rd, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim	01/12/2001	Office Accommodation	Community Services	1190	
5 - 8 Willow Grove, Leitrim Rd, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim	01/07/2000	Offices	Community Services	2380	
JFK House, JFK Parade, Sligo	01/03/2002	Offices & Clinics	Community Services	17000	
Newtowngore, County Leitrim	01/08/2003	Health Centre	Community Services	490	Rent includes caretaking & cleaning
Spa Brae, Kinlough, Co. Leitrim	01/03/2006	Health Centre	Community Services	1400	
Ballintogher Enterprise Centre, Co. Sligo	01/01/2003	Office & Clinic	Community Welfare Office	192	
Teach Cairde, 3 Keash Road, Ballymote, Co. Sligo	01/11/2004	Office & Clinic	Community Welfare Office & Mental Health	1000	approx.
Curry Health Centre, Curry, Co. Sligo	01/09/2008	Health Centre	Community Welfare Office, Public Health Nurse	1200	
Water Lane, Sligo	01/04/2001	Offices & Counselling	COSC Service	750	
EHO Office (1), Ardaghown, Sligo	27/03/2000	Offices	Environmental Health Office	1650	

EHO Office (2), Ardaghown, Sligo	07/06/2001	Offices	Environmental Health Office	725	
406 & 407 Millbrook, Sligo	24/05/2001	Disability Facility	ICT, Assistive Technology, HR		
10 The Mall, Sligo	12/04/2002	Offices	Internal Audit	1700	
Loughtown House, Summerhill, Carrick-on-Shannon	01/07/2007	Group Home - Learning Disabilities	Learning Disabilities Service	Residential Letting	
18 Markievicz Heights, Sligo	18/10/2004	Semi Independent Programme - Learning Disabilities	Learning Disabilities Services	Residential Letting	
21 Steeple View, Collooney, County Sligo	12/08/2002	Group Home - Learning Disabilities	Learning Disabilities Services	Residential Letting	
22 Steeple View, Collooney, County Sligo	12/08/2002	Group Home - Learning Disabilities	Learning Disabilities Services	Residential Letting	
30 Aylesbury Park, Sligo	17/05/2004	Group Home - Learning Disabilities	Learning Disabilities Services	Residential Letting	
35 Highfield, Charlestown Road, Tubbercurry, County Sligo	01/01/2007	Group Home - Learning Disabilities	Learning Disabilities Services	Residential Letting	
36 Aylesbury Park, Sligo	17/05/2004	Group Home - Learning Disabilities	Learning Disabilities Services	Residential Letting	
44 Cartron Bay, Sligo	24/08/2005	Group Home - Learning Disabilities	Learning Disabilities Services	Residential Letting	
48 Yeats Heights, Sligo	07/02/2005	Semi Independent Programme - Learning Disabilities	Learning Disabilities Services	Residential Letting	
5 Portroosc, Rooskey, Co. Leitrim	20/12/2004	Learning Disabilities Residential	Learning Disabilities Services	Residential Letting	
60 Glendallon, Ballinode, Sligo	01/01/1998	Group Home - Learning Disabilities	Learning Disabilities Services	Residential Letting	
Apartment 9, Quayside, Sligo	02/08/2006	Learning Disabilities Residential	Learning Disabilities Services	Residential Letting	
Aoibhneas, Ballynabaoile, Ballymote, Co. Sligo	07/11/2005	Day Centre - Learning Disabilities	Learning Disabilities Services	Residential Letting	
Cara, Cornageeha, Pearse Rd, Sligo	25/08/2008	Group Home-Learning Disabilities	Learning Disabilities Services	Residential Letting	
Jude Robe, Ballinode, Sligo	09/01/2005	Group Home - Learning Disabilities	Learning Disabilities Services	Residential Letting	
Nephin Drive (2 houses), Enniscrone, Co. Sligo	01/06/2004	Group Homes-Learning Disabilities	Learning Disabilities Services	Residential Letting	

Rusheen House, Doonally, Ballygawley, Sligo	01/08/2007	Group Home - Learning Disabilities	Learning Disabilities Services	Residential Letting	
Stonehall, Ballinode, Sligo	01/01/2007	Day Service	Learning Disabilities Services	Residential Letting	
Cluainin Centre, Manorhamilton, Co. Leitrim	01/01/2002	Offices	Management Services	2407	
Charter House, Old Market St, Sligo	02/01/2003	Offices & Counselling	Addiction Services - Mental Health	2760	
104-106 Millbrook, Sligo	01/07/1999	Day Service - Mental Health	Mental Health Services		
12 Keenaghan Crescent, Ballymote, Co. Sligo	05/08/2003	Group Home - Mental Health	Mental Health Services	Residential Letting	
1A Caltragh, Sligo (Raheen Day Centre)	02/01/2004	Day Centre - Mental Health	Mental Health Services	Residential Letting	
1A New Circular Road, Sligo	08/01/1993	Group Home - Mental Health	Mental Health Services	Residential Letting	
2 Upper Main Street, Manorhamilton, County Leitrim	01/11/2004	Group Home - Mental Health	Mental Health Services	Residential Letting	
21 & 22 The Meadows, Grange, County Sligo	01/07/2006	Group Home - Mental Health	Mental Health Services	Residential Letting	
49 Yeats Heights, Sligo	01/01/2006	Group Home - Mental Health	Mental Health Services	Residential Letting	
6 Greenfort, Sligo	14/02/2005	Group Home - Mental Health	Mental Health Services	Residential Letting	
64 Cartron Bay, Sligo	08/01/1998	Group Home - Mental Health	Mental Health Services	Residential Letting	
9 Keash Road, Ballymote, Co. Sligo	05/08/2003	Group Home-Mental Health	Mental Health Services	Residential Letting	
9 O'Connell St, Ballymote, Co. Sligo	04/01/1997	Group Home - Mental Health	Mental Health Services	Residential Letting	
Doonbeg, Ballinode, Sligo	01/05/2002	Group Home - Mental Health	Mental Health Services	Residential Letting	
Kilgar Day Club, Kiltyclogher, Co. Leitrim	01/01/2000	Day Centre - Mental Health	Mental Health Services	2000	appro x.
Laundry, St. Columba's, Sligo	01/04/1992	Laundry	Mental Health Services	10500	
Liscarney, Pearse Road, Sligo	02/01/2004	Day Service - Mental Health	Mental Health Services	5300	

St Brigid's, Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim	01/04/1994	Group Home - St Vincent de Paul	Mental Health Services	Residential Letting	
The Rock, Ballymote	01/08/1987	Day service	Mental Health Services	2480	approx.
1A-3A Custom House Quay, Sligo	18/10/2001	Offices, Training & Counselling	Mental Health Services, Social Work, Regional Adoption	5403	
2 The Beeches, Summerhill, Carrick-on-Shannon, County Leitrim	01/10/2005	Community Paediatric Occupational Therapy Service	Occupational Therapy	1350	approx.
Old Medicentre, Kempton Parade, Sligo	20/12/1999	CPR Training, Storage, Offices for Orthopaedic Fitting Service, Down's Syndrom Assoc and Muscular Dystrophy	Orthopaedic Fitting Service Down's Syndrome Assoc, Community Services Storage	3000	
Personnel & Counselling, Ardaghown, Sligo	20/06/2003	Offices & Clinics	Personnel & Regional Counselling	3081	
Duck St, Sligo	01/09/2004	Offices & Training	ICT & HR Business Solutions	12413	
8 Churchfield, Dromahaire, County Leitrim	01/04/2004	Primary Care GP Surgery	Primary Care Unit	1200	
Coen House, Tubbercurry, Co. Sligo	01/01/2007	Office Space	Learning Disabilities Service	200	
Now Doc, Inver Gael, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim	01/05/2004	Medical Centre	Primary Care Unit	1900	
Waterfront House, Bridge St, Sligo	13/12/1999	Offices	Property Management, Estates, NDP	3184	
Hilddrum House, Leitrim Rd, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim	04/02/2002	Office Accommodation	Property Management/Autism Service/Finance-Payable	861	
Bridgewater House, Bridge St, Sligo	05/05/2001	Offices	Public Health	2997	
Unit 3 Finisklin Business Park, Sligo	01/07/1999	Offices	Purchasing & Materials Management	3283	
68 John St, Sligo	01/08/2006	Offices & Counselling	Regional Counselling Service	1151	
Business Innovation Centre, IT, Sligo	01/01/2007	Rehabilitative Training Programme	Rehabilitative Training Programme	522	

1 Roskeeragh, Ardaghown, Sligo	05/02/2003	Locum Accommodation	Sligo General Hospital	Residential Letting	
Cherrymount, Ardaghown, Sligo	14/08/2001	Offices	Sligo General Hospital	2647	
Hughes House, The Mall, Sligo	06/05/2001	Offices	Sligo General Hospital	1297	
Portocabin, Sligo General Hospital	01/01/2006	Storage	Sligo General Hospital	860	
Portocabin, Sligo General Hospital	01/12/1996	Storage	Sligo General Hospital	340	
Portocabin, Sligo General Hospital	01/11/2001	Offices	Sligo General Hospital	3200	
Portocabin, Sligo General Hospital	01/12/1996	Storage	Sligo General Hospital	576	
Portocabin, Sligo General Hospital	01/01/2007	Offices	Sligo General Hospital	4920	
Portocabin, St. John's Hospital, Sligo	10/04/2000	Offices	Sligo General Hospital	1200	
St. Francis, The Mall, Sligo	30/05/2005	Offices	Sligo General Hospital	2346	
Unit 9, St. Colm's, Finisklin Business Park, Sligo	01/06/2008	Storage	Sligo General Hospital	4000	
25 Pearse Crescent, Sligo	01/07/2005	Offices	Social Work Aftercare Service	1200	
One Stop Shop, Tubbercurry, Sligo	06/01/2004	Offices & Clinics	Social Work, EHO, Counselling Co-ordinator, CWO	3895	
Over Mullen's Garage, Bundoran Road, Sligo	08/01/2001	Offices	Superannuation Office	2100	
Portocabin, Markievicz House, Sligo	26/02/2000	Storage	Community Services	300	

**W22Q439 – Councillor Declan Bree**

*“That the Forum be provided with a list of persons/firms providing professional services to the HSE in this region i.e. solicitors, valuers, consultants etc., and that details of payments to each for the years 2008, 2007 and 2006 be provided to the Forum.”*

**HSE Reply:**

Response not available at time of printing.

**W22Q440 – Councillor Mary Hoade**

*“Recent policy (14th May) by the HSE for staffing and vehicle types for private medical insured patients which is being implemented requires that there are 2 Paramedics and a type B CEN ambulance, for patient transfers (non urgent) by Private Ambulance companies.*

*Why has there been no discussion or notice given to the private companies involved? There has been no lead in time and there are not enough paramedics trained up. There is currently no access to private training for paramedics, will this training be opened to the current EMT's?*

*Is the role of Emergency Medical Technician now defunct (as there will be no training ground) and what are the HSE planning to do with their EMT staff currently about 10% of staff, also non compliant vehicles and at what cost? Is the use of this level of service provision required in the transport of non acute patients? The fleet of type A vehicle will be unusable, again there is no evidence that this type of vehicle is not suitable for the transfer of non acute patients.*

*Smaller Private Ambulances companies will go out of business with the loss of many jobs. Do the HSE have the capacity to deal with the workload that will occur from a finance of HR perspective, if this happens? Transfers by Paramedics will cost more than by EMT's, Paramedics will loose their skills if involved solely in PTS, by private companies who do not have an ASI contract, how will this situation be overcome?”*

**HSE Reply:**

In late 2008, early 2009 the HSE met with the Private Health Insurance companies to advise them that it would be seeking advice from the Clinical Indemnity Scheme regarding any potential corporate or clinical liabilities it may have when private ambulance providers transport private patients to and from public hospitals, as part of the continuum of care. As soon as this advice was received, the HSE immediately notified the private health insurance companies (the contracting authority for private ambulance companies) of its requirements in this regard.

The HSE requested the private health insurance companies to advise the private ambulance companies operating on their behalf as the contracting authority, that two paramedics and a category B CEN-compliant ambulance would be required to transport private patients in the care of the HSE. To date no objection has been received from the private health insurance companies with respect to this.

With regard to paramedical staff, there are only two training institutions accredited by the Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council (a statutory body). These are the National Ambulance Service College in conjunction with UCD, and the Dublin Fire Brigade in conjunction with RCSI.

Over the last eighteen months the National Ambulance Service College (NASC) has been operating at full capacity, so much so that it had to open a second campus at Ballinasloe. This was mainly due to an unprecedented level of recruitment of student paramedics coupled with the ongoing training of advanced paramedics and the upskilling of current staff.

As in previous years, as capacity becomes available, the NASC will recommence training private candidates and candidates from other state agencies.

The HSE has a number of staff who will not qualify to register at the paramedic level. The HSE is engaging with staff representative bodies to develop procedures and processes to deal with this small cohort of staff, whilst ensuring that they continue to have a meaningful role within the service. It is likely that these staff will operate at an intermediate care level. The current standard for staff operating on emergency ambulances is one EMT and

one Paramedic as a minimum. The role of the EMT is not a matter for the HSE from a standards perspective, rather it is the role of the professional registration body.

Prior to the inception of the HSE, a number of the former health boards developed a five-year replacement cycle for emergency ambulances. This has continued and over the last three years, 182 new emergency ambulances have purchased and built to CEN1789 Category B standards. This leaves 13 non-CEN Compliant vehicles across the country out of a fleet of more than 300 vehicles. These will be replaced this year as part of the replacement programme, at which stage the HSE emergency ambulance fleet will be 100% CEN 1789 Category B Compliant, placing Ireland at the forefront in Europe.

The primary HSE focus is to deliver high quality patient and client care in a safe and appropriate manner. The current standard in place for the transportation of high and low acuity patients is an EMT and a paramedic as a minimum. Should another standard be introduced, the HSE will consider and adopt, as appropriate.

Skill retention is a requirement for all clinically trained staff, dependent on the speciality and the case volume. This is particularly challenging for the ambulance service as it provides a range of emergency and urgent services to rural and remote communities with low volumes of emergency and urgent activity. As a consequence of this and in accordance with best practice, the National Ambulance Service provides upskilling and skill retention programmes for its entire operational frontline staff. This helps deal with any potential skill attrition issues.

**W22Q441 – Councillor Brian Meaney**

*“I request the overall amount and breakdown of legal fees paid by the HSE Mid West in 2007 and 2008”*

**HSE Reply:**

Supplier Name	2007	2008
DERMOT G O'DONOVAN & CO SOLICITOR	543,554	635,136
MICHAEL TUTE	145,359	164,348
LEAHY AND PARTNERS	78,866	159,180
MARY LINEHAN	148,600	
BARNARDOS	69,510	53,563
INTRUM JUSTITIA	58,908	62,418
MICHAEL D. MURRAY & CO.		115,806
IRISH GUARDIAN AD LITEM SERVICE	93,586	16,054
BRIDGETTE MEEHAN		105,875
ARTHUR COX	30,139	73,817
MS EILEEN HOWARD		80,000
ERNST CANTILLON	74,987	
HOLMES O'MALLEY SEXTON SOLICITORS	10,000	61,242
A&L GOODBODY	12,159	51,984
BCM HANBY WALLACE	45,020	8,047
DEREK J SHEAHAN	31,363	20,167
BRIAN MURRAY		38,508
RONAN DALY JERMYN	26,150	4,200
GERRY DIAMOND		27,500
INDEPENDENT GUARDIAN AD LITEM SER		26,406
GERARD KIELY	24,805	
MICHAEL J HOWARD	10,848	9,710
PAT O'NEILL	20,000	
FELIX MCENROY		17,182
PATHWAYS		15,850
MAIREAD MC KENNA		15,839



SHAUN ELDER SOLR	14,956	
O'MARA GERAGHTY MCCOURT SOLICITOR	13,613	
MARGUERITE BOLGER		9,075
CASHIN & ASSOCIATES		8,276
BINCHY SOLICITORS		7,748
RACHEL O'TOOLE		6,653
CAROLINE BYRNE BL	5,445	
HARWYN LTD	1,355	3,743
ELAINE HOULIHAN BL		4,901
MR CIAN P KELLY		4,840
GERARD DURCAN		3,630
MCMAHON O'BRIEN DOWNES SOLICITORS	3,574	
MICHAEL COLLINS		3,328
BEHAN AND ASSOCIATES		2,995
O'MALLEY AND CO SOLICITORS	1,603	835
ELIZABETH MCGRATH	2,360	
VALERIE A COTTER AND CO SOLICITOR		1,815
BUTLER CUNNINGHAM AND MOLONY SOLR		1,815
JENNY FITZGIBBON SOLICITORS		1,815
PHILIP LEE SOLICITORS	1,494	
TED McCARTHY BCL		1,307
GERRY LAING		1,218
SOUTHERN INVESTIGATION SERVICES L	871	254
MICHAEL FINBARR COLLINS		908
LCMS LTD		709
DR PATRICK RYAN		550
DR JARLATH GALLAGHER	540	
MARK SMYTH	500	
ANN POWER		448
LEGAL ISLAND		345
GERRY LANG	140	
CHARLES J O CONNOR & CO		50
Grand Total per AP system	<b>1,470,306</b>	<b>1,830,086</b>
Other adjustments/corrections on Gen Ledger	23,444	115,721
Total Legal Fees per Annual Financial Statements	<b>1,493,750</b>	<b>1,945,807</b>

#### Total Legal Fees HSE Mid West

	2007	2008
CLARE HQ- NET LEGAL FEES	4,277	0
TIPP HQ- NET LEGAL FEES	0	41,077
TIPP HEALTH CENTRES LEGAL FEES	164	0
TIPP HQ- COMM SERV LEGAL FEES	2,088	0
LIM HQ- COMM SERV LEGAL FEES	0	15,675
PROG ADMIN COMM CAR LEGAL FEES	1,075	17,074
REGION-TOTAL LEGAL FEES	43,055	-61,426
CLARE-TOTAL LEGAL FEES	93,566	306,444
TIPP-TOTAL LEGAL FEES	83,714	551,415
LIMERICK TOTAL LEGAL FEES	111,438	174,682
<b>COMMUNITY CARE LEGAL FEES</b>	<b>339,377</b>	<b>1,044,940</b>

MENTAL HEALTH SPECI LEGAL FEES	596	438
CLARE HQ MEN HEALTH LEGAL FEES	0	2,384
CLARE E-TOTAL LEGAL FEES	99,952	83,918
TIPP B -TOTAL LEGAL FEES	604	7,748
LIM SECT B-TOTAL LEGAL FEES	547	268
<b>MENTAL HEALTH LEGAL FEES</b>	<b>101,700</b>	<b>94,755</b>
CLARE HQ- ELD CARE LEGAL FEES	4	0
OLDER PERSONS DIREC LEGAL FEES	333	0
CLARE W.-TOTAL LEGAL FEES	231	0
CLARE E.-TOTAL LEGAL FEES	871	0
TIPP SECT A-TOTAL LEGAL FEES	545	182
LIM SECT D-TOTAL LEGAL FEES	968	0
LIM SECT A TOTAL LEGAL FEES	4,840	0
<b>ELDERLY CARE LEGAL FEES</b>	<b>7,792</b>	<b>182</b>
ACUTE PROGRAMME ADM LEGAL FEES	73	214,622
ENNIS GEN HOSPITAL LEGAL FEES	12,227	7,329
NENAGH GEN HOSPITAL LEGAL FEES	11,352	13,121
CROOM ORTHOPAEDIC LEGAL FEES	23,364	3,535
REGIONAL MATERNITY LEGAL FEES	0	290
REGIONAL DOORADOYLE LEGAL FEES	314,659	157,563
<b>ACUTE HOSP PROG LEGAL FEES</b>	<b>361,675</b>	<b>396,461</b>
LIMK N/ACUTES STRAT LEGAL FEES	92,857	108,268
REG MATERIALS FUNCT LEGAL FEES	77,136	-12,993
PUB HEALTH-TOTAL LEGAL FEES	9,310	79
TECH SERV-TOTAL LEGAL FEES	0	170
PERSONNEL -TOTAL LEGAL FEES	13,418	21,743
FINANCE-TOTAL LEGAL FEES	489,760	292,200
CEO DEPT. LEGAL FEES	726	0
<b>CENTRAL SERVICES LEGAL FEES</b>	<b>683,206</b>	<b>409,468</b>
<b>TOTAL HEALTH BOARD LEGAL FEES</b>	<b>1,493,750</b>	<b>1,945,807</b>

\*Note: HSE Mid West Legal and Insurance Dept based in Finance cost centre.

**W22Q442 – Councillor Brian Meaney**

*“On a county by county basis in the West Region, I request the numbers of medical cards and doctor-only medical cards for 2007, 2008 and current 2009”*

**HSE Reply:**

LHO AREA		No. of Medical Cards	No. of Doctor only Medical Cards
Sligo/Letrim	2007	33,044	2,333
	2008	34,247	2,638
	2009	36,331	2,839
Donegal	2007	72,712	4,822
	2008	75,433	5,221
	2009	78,723	5,700
Galway	2007 (Jan 07)	46,017	1,686
	2008 (Jan 08)	47,863	2,270
	2009 (June 09)	52,817	2,885
Mayo	2007	33,919	1,400
	2008	35,363	1,481
	2009	35,721	1,574
Roscommon	2007	15,025	674
	2008	15,877	763
	2009 (Jan-June 09)	16,074	773
Clare	2007	2926 Clients 4514	232 Clients 491
	2008	3505 Clients 5455	258 Clients 549
	2009	2421 Clients 3842	199 Clients 396
Limerick	2007	6,656	612
	2008	6,053	442
	2009	3,573	329
N.Tipp/East Limerick	2007	22,256	1,169
	2008	23,698	1,404
	2009	25,106	1,347

**W22Q443 – Councillor Brian Meaney**

*“With respect to homeless adults, what was the cost (whether direct, or through service level agreement) to the HSE in the Midwest, of providing accommodation in 2007 and 2008? How many people availed of homelessness services in the last 12 months (June – May), and how many contacts were there, both in the community and in clinics? Are there specific locations/clinics where such services are delivered, and if so, list these.”*

**HSE Reply:**

- Cost to HSE West in respect of Homeless accommodation in Mid West.** (It should be noted that funding of homeless accommodation is provided jointly with the relevant local authority. The local authorities are responsible for the non care staff costs and non pay costs while the HSE is responsible for care staff costs).  
**2007 – €2,220,000    2008 - €2,343,000**
- Number of households presenting as homeless from June 2008 to May 2009- 1 Year** (This figure represents the number of households( does not include adult and child dependants) presenting as homeless either to the Homeless Persons Centres or the Homeless Hostels across the four local authority areas of Limerick City, Limerick County, Clare and North Tipperary) **Total - 991**

3. **Homeless Clinics / Locations in the Mid West** (Limerick City, Limerick County, Clare and North Tipperary)  
It should be noted that persons presenting as homeless are seen outside of the scheduled clinic times where required.

Area	Day/Time	Location
Limerick City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tuesday 2:00 - 3:30</li> <li>Thursday 2:00 - 3:30</li> <li>Friday 10:30 - 11:30</li> </ul>	Rixtown Health Centre, Old Clare St., Limerick. Rixtown Health Centre, Old Clare St., Limerick. Rixtown Health Centre, Old Clare St., Limerick.
Limerick County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tuesday 10:30 - 11:30</li> <li>Wednesday 10:30 - 11:30</li> <li>Thursday 10:30 - 11:30</li> <li>Thursday 2:30 - 3:30</li> <li>Friday 2:30 - 3:30</li> </ul>	Bruree House, Bruree, Co. Limerick Limerick County Council Offices, Dooradoyle. Bruree House, Bruree, Co. Limerick. Kilmallock Health Centre, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick. Newcastle West Health Centre, Co. Limerick
North Tipperary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tuesday 10:30 - 11:00</li> <li>Wednesday 10:00 - 10:30</li> <li>Wednesday 2:00 - 2:30</li> <li>Friday 10:30 - 11:00</li> </ul>	Homeless Persons Centre, Nenagh, Co Tipperary. Roscrea Health Centre, Roscrea, Co Tipperary. Thurles Health Centre, Thurles, Co Tipperary. Homeless Persons Centre, Nenagh., Co Tipperary.
Clare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tuesday 11:00 - 12:00</li> <li>Wednesday 2:00 - 3:00</li> <li>Thursday 11:00 - 12:00</li> <li>Thursday 2:30 - 3:30</li> <li>Friday 10:30 - 11:30</li> </ul>	Ennistymon Health Centre, Co. Clare. Sandfield Centre, Ennis, Co. Clare. Kilrush Health Centre, Kilrush, Co. Clare. Shannon Health Centre, Shannon, Co. Clare. Sandfield Centre, Ennis, Co. Clare.

**W22Q444 – Councillor Brian Meaney**

*“What is the funding of CEIS (Clare Early Intervention Service) in 2009, and what was it in 2008? Are there plans/proposals for expansion?”*

**HSE Reply:**

Total budget for CEIS for 2008 is €756,865.

Total budget for CEIS for 2009 is €877,713.

CEIS (for children aged 0-6 years with a disability and complex needs) team were developed in Clare in 2003 using a partnership model between the HSE and a number of non-statutory agencies, namely the Brothers of Charity, Enable Ireland and Clare Federation.

There is ongoing development with the rollout of Clare Children’s Services (for children aged 6-18 years with a disability and complex needs) in 2006/2007. We are striving to provide specialist interdisciplinary team services at network level to support the Primary Care Teams in Clare.

**W22Q445 – Councillor Bernard McGuinness**

*“What effects will the recent announcement by Sean McGrath, HSE regarding the non-renewal of temporary contracts have on Letterkenny Hospital and will derogations of this be allowed?”*

**HSE Reply:**

The recent announcement by Sean McGrath, HR Manager, HSE that staff on temporary contracts less than 12 months may not have them renewed will have a significant impact on service delivery in LGH if it goes ahead. There are over 30 contracts that fall into this category, spread across the disciplines, the biggest number being 22 in nursing. We have options around reassignments and redeployments and we are pursuing these. We will be

making a case on some individual contracts to demonstrate clearly the essential nature of the posts to front line service delivery. There are certain named posts such as medical consultants, speech & language therapists, physiotherapists, OTs, social workers and EMTs that are exempt from this announcement, their temp contract should be able to be renewed.

**W22Q446 – Councillor Michael Mullins**

*"I request details of ward closures that have taken place or that are planned at Portiuncula Hospital in Ballinasloe, the duration of the closures, and the impact on services at the Hospital."*

**HSE Reply:**

There are 25 beds closed at present and planned closure of 1 theatre from mid July to end August 2009. Elective activity may be somewhat reduced. It is hoped to reconfigure staffing to open the Medical Assessment Unit this year.

**W22Q447 – Councillor Michael Mullins**

*"What other cuts/rationalizations are planned at Portiuncula Hospital?"*

**HSE Reply:**

There are 25 beds closed at present and planned closure of 1 theatre from mid July to end August 2009. Elective activity may be somewhat reduced. It is hoped to reconfigure staffing to open the Medical Assessment Unit this year.

**W22Q448 – Councillor Michael Mullins**

*"I request a progress report on the efforts to resolve the ongoing dispute involving Nurse Managers at Portiuncula Hospital?"*

**HSE Reply:**

A Labour Court recommendation was issued on June 25<sup>th</sup>, and is available on its website [www.labourcourt.ie](http://www.labourcourt.ie). The current position is that HSE Management at Portiuncula have confirmed via the HSEEA, their willingness to re-engage in the mediation process outlined in the Labour Court recommendation, under the chairmanship of the Court's nominee, Mr Ed Madden.

At National level, both the HSE and INO will be in contact with the assigned mediator, to agree possible dates for mediation which will be arranged in accordance with the availability of the parties concerned, as soon as possible."

**W22Q449 – Councillor Michael Mullins**

*"How many front line staff has been recruited in Galway City and County this year, to replace the large numbers that have retired?"*

**HSE Reply:**

The total number of front line staff recruited in Galway City and County this year to date is 319. This includes 30 front line staff recruited on a permanent hire basis and 289 front line staff recruited on a temporary hire basis.

**W22Q450 – Councillor Sean McGowan**

*"To again ask the Executive what is the up to date position in relation to the provision of the new Community hospital / day centre at Carrick-on Shannon and has a Planning application been lodged with Leitrim Co. Council for the Community Nursing unit in Ballinamore, when is it schedule to open?"*

*Has the funding been secured for both of these projects, will the current financial situation that we are in put either or both of those projects at risk?"*

**HSE Reply:**

**Carrick-on Shannon – Community Hospital/Day Centre.**

This project is not included in the NDP Plan for 2009. It will receive further consideration for inclusion in the 2010 Plan and the outcome of this review will not be know until 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr 2010.

**Ballinamore - Community Nursing Unit/Day Hospital/Primary Care Unit**

The Design Process is ongoing, the preliminary design is completed. It is hoped to have all design work completed by end of July 2009 which would allow a planning application to be submitted. Construction is programmed to commence in early 2010, but this stage requires approval by the National Director of Estates.

Funding has been secured for Ballinamore in 2009 to allow the design/planning process to proceed as outlined above and as already stated, funding for construction is subject to approval to proceed with construction.

**W22Q451 – Councillor Catherine Connolly**

*“Please clarify the position in relation to the empty house in Newcastle No. 1 /Mass Path and in particular whether it is owned and/or leased by the HSE West, when it was acquired and the cost of same whether purchased and/or ongoing rent/lease, what if anything it has been used for, how long it is now empty and the reasons for same and what the HSE West intends to do with the building now.”*

**HSE Reply:**

Response not available at time of printing.

**W22Q452 – Councillor Catherine Connolly**

*“What progress has been made in relation to the various and very specific recommendations contained in the Report of the Inspector of Mental Health Services 2008 in relation to Unit 9A Merlin Park and most particularly the identified urgent need for a rehabilitation team, the need for increased occupational therapy sessions and the need to address the lack of privacy for residents in shared rooms.”*

**HSE Reply:**

Unit 9A is an approved in patient facility under the Mental Health Treatment Act and provides for the long stay needs of people from the catchment area.

The inspector of Mental Health further to the 2008 report made a number of recommendations regarding Unit 9A Merlin Park.

A Consultant Psychiatrist visits the unit regularly and all patients in this approved centre are reviewed. A multidisciplinary approach is used in this process and Occupational Therapy input has been increased.

A major refurbishment programme has commenced in this unit and is soon to be completed. There is a reduction in patient numbers to address the privacy issues surrounding room sharing.

**W22Q453 – Councillor Catherine Connolly**

*“How many patients at Unit 9A have been identified to move to the new community residence in Tearmann Eanna, whether these patients and their families have been informed of this move/plan and when and what progress if any has now been made in relation to opening up the empty building known as Tearmann Eanna.”*

**HSE Reply:**

To date seven patients have been identified as suitable to move. They and their families are aware that they are to transfer to this facility. A meeting has been scheduled for July 22nd to discuss proposals regarding development and opening of the house in the near future. We anticipate that we can move forward with this shortly.

As you are aware this accommodation was provided by Coiste Tearmann Eanna for the provision of services to people from the locality who are patients of the Mental Health Services. Unfortunately it has not been possible to facilitate the transfer of these individuals to date because of funding difficulties and the cost associated with the provision of the model of care proposed. We are now reviewing this proposal with a view to determining whether a revised care plan can be developed having regard to the needs of the individuals concerned and the funding available.

**W22Q454 – Councillor Catherine Connolly**

*“What is the total number of beds in Merlin Park Hospital with the breakdown as per the wards and the number of beds actually occupied and similarly the total number of beds in the Regional Hospital as per the wards and how many are actually occupied?”*

**HSE Reply:**

Dayward/Inpatient Ward		No of Places
Merlin Park University Hospital		
Day Beds	Day Beds	Inpatient Wards
Unit 1	2	33
Unit 3	6	
Unit 4		24
Unit 5		41
Unit 6		38
Unit 7	12	
Unit 8	3	30
Hospital Ground	9	0
Hospital 1		30
Hospital 2 (Day Beds)	9	
Special care		5
TOTAL	41	201

closed  
34

closed  
30

to utilise bed capacity and staffing more efficiently.  
as part of refurbishment and reorganisation plan for the hospital

Dayward/Inpatient Ward		No of Places
University Hospital Galway		
	Day Beds	Inpatient Beds
Surgical Day Ward	18	
Endoscopy Day Ward	6	
St Monica's Ward	8	23
Cardiology Day Ward	4	
Urology Day Treatment	4	
St Michael's Ward	6	23
St Mary's Ward	6	21
Gynaecology Day Treatment	2	
St Bernadettes Childrens Unit	8	24
Day Treatment Unit in the following specialities:		
ENT,OPHTHALMOLOGY,PLASTICS	6	
Haematology Day Ward	16	
Dermatology Day Treatment	2	
Hepatology Day Ward	3	
Endocrinology Day Ward	2	
Breast Care Unit	10	
Radiotherapy	12	
Maxillofacial Day Ward	2	
Total	115	

seasonally closed until 270709  
seasonal closure from 040809

seasonally closed until 270709  
seasonal closure from 040809

St Enda's Ward	30	Includes 4 closed refurbishment
St Anthony's Ward	27	
St Rita's Ward	18	
St Patrick's Ward	25	
St Joseph's Ward	26	
St Teresa's Ward	33	
St Nicholas Ward	31	
St Gerard's Ward	31	
St Ann's Ward	31	
St Finbarr's	40	
St Pius' Ward	30	
St Dominic's Ward	28	
St Angela's Ward	31	
St Catherine's Ward	18	
St Claire's Ward	14	
Cardio Thoracic Unit	12	
CCU	8	
ICU/HDU	16	
CTICU	5	
Medical Assessment Unit	13	
<b>Total</b>	<b>558</b>	

#### **W22Q455 – Councillor Pdraig Conneely – Late Questions**

*"I am requesting the number of applicants in County Galway for Back to School Clothing & Footwear Allowance. Has extra staff been appointed and what is the time period for claims to be processed and when will payments be made?"*

**HSE Reply:** Not available at time of printing

#### **W22Q456 – Councillor Pdraig Conneely – Late Questions**

*"How many Orthodontists Specialist/Surgeons are employed in Merlin Park/UCHG? How many operations are carried out each year, and what is the number on the waiting list for such operations and treatment?"*

**HSE Reply:** Not available at time of printing

### **Points Raised:**

#### **W21Q426 Councillor Michael Mullins – Ambulance Service in Co. Galway**

Councillor Michael Mullins stated that he had not received a response to this Question.

*It was agreed that Mr. Paudie O'Riordan, Chief Ambulance Officer HSE West will communicate directly with Councillor Mullins on the matter, as soon as possible.*

#### **W22Q437 Councillor Declan Bree – Breast Cancer Services from Sligo to UCHG**

Councillor Declan Bree stated that he is unhappy with the response received.

*It was agreed that he would communicate directly with Dr. Seán Conroy Director of the Regional Health Office regarding his concerns.*

#### **W22Q438 Councillor Declan Bree – Properties Rented by HSE**

Councillor Declan Bree requested an undertaking that once all the review of rents has been completed, the relevant details will be provided to him. In addition, he requested clarification as to whether planning permission has been received for the various premises concerned.

*It was agreed that Mr. Seamus McNulty will communicate with Councillor Bree on the matter.*



*Dr. Séan Conroy Director of the Regional Health Office stated that he will arrange for Mr. Joe Molloy, Assistant National Director, Estates, HSE West to make a Presentation to a future meeting of the Meeting on HSE Policy regarding Properties, Estates, etc.*

**W22Q441 Councillor Brian Meaney – Legal Fees**

Councillor Brian Meaney requested clarification as to what services were provided by the Southern Investigation Services which cost €871 in 2007 and €254 in 2008.

*It was agreed that Dr. Conroy Director of the Regional Health Office would seek clarification from the Department of Finance.*

**W22Q442 Councillor Brian Meaney – No. of Medical Cards**

Councillor Brian Meaney requested clarification as to the term “clients used in the reply”.

*It was agreed that Mr. Seamus McNulty Assistant National Director PCCC Services HSE West would communicate with Councillor Meaney on the matter.*

**W22Q450 Councillor Sean McGowan – Community Hospitals in Carrick-on-Shannon and Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim**

Councillor Sean McGowan requested the up-to-date position regarding the planning permission for both of these facilities.

*Mr. Seamus McNulty Assistant National Director PCCC Services HSE West would communicate with Councillor McGowan on the matter.*

**W22Q451 Councillor Catherine Connolly – Empty House in Newcastle**

Dr. Seán Conroy Director of the Regional Health Office apologised for the delay in receiving the HSE response. This is due to the fact that the Question was referred to both Hospital and PCCC and it now transpires that it is owned by the Occupational Health Department, Department of Human Resources HSE West.

*It was agreed that Mr. Francis Rogers, Assistant National Director, Human Resources, will communicate with Councillor Connolly on the matter.*

**W22Q454 Councillor Catherine Connolly – Bed Occupancy in Merlin Park University & Galway University Hospitals**

Councillor Catherine Connolly stated that she was concerned regarding the severe reduction in the number of beds at both Hospitals. She felt that it did not reconcile with previous figures provided to her.

*It was agreed that Mr. Alan Moran Hospital Network will clarify the matter and provide bed complements for both Hospitals and communicate directly with Councillor Connolly on the matter.*

**Urgent Question**

Councillor John Kelly stated that he had serious concerns regarding the level of resources allocated to the Community Welfare Department in Roscommon PCCC Services and in particular in relation to the Back to School Clothing & Footwear Allowances.

*It was agreed that Mr. Seamus McNulty Assistant National Director PCCC Services HSE West will investigate the matter and communicate directly with Councillor Kelly.*

**Councillor Gerry McLoughlin – Group Task Force**

Councillor Gerry McLoughlin requested details on the Drug Task Force, its constitution and the involvement by the HSE.

*It was agreed that Dr. Jacky Jones, Functional Manager, Health Promotion, HSE West will investigate the matter and communicate directly with Councillor McLoughlin.*

## 236/22/09 Motions/Fógraí Rúin

### Motion No. W15M124

*"That a copy of the contract between the HSE and Mount Carmel Medical Group for the proposed development of a private co-located hospital on the grounds of Sligo General Hospital, be made available to the members of the regional Health Forum."*

Councillor Declan Bree asked that this Motion be deferred to the next meeting of the Regional Health Forum.

### Motion W21M157

*"That HIQA undertake investigations of patient safety at each Hospital in the State."*

Proposed by Councillor Brian Meaney, seconded by Councillor Tony Ward and adopted.

### W21M158

*"That this forum calls on the Minister for Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs to restore the scheme of Community Support for older People which was withdrawn in the recent supplementary budget. This scheme has proved to be invaluable to older people living alone as it provided for security lights door and window locks and most importantly telephone monitoring which ensured that if the person with this service was in trouble help was on hand at short notice."*

As Councillor Hopkins is no longer a member of the Regional Health Forum, this Motion was withdrawn.

### W21M159

*"That a Primary Care Centre be put in place in the existing St. Brendan's Community Nursing Unit, Loughrea."*

As Councillor Hynes is no longer a member of the Regional Health Forum, this Motion was withdrawn.

### W21M160

*"Taking into consideration the fact that Professor Tom Keane has given assurances that Cancer Services would only be transferred to proposed Centres of Excellence when improved services were guaranteed in such Centres, and alarmed at the fact that transfers of services have taken place in the South East despite the fact that 36 of 48 national minimum standards for quality and safety were deficient, and further recognising that the outcomes for patients with breast cancer treated in Sligo General Hospital are of the highest standard, this Regional Health Forum again calls on the Government and the Minister for Health to reverse the decision to transfer the Breast Cancer service from Sligo."*

Councillor Bree stated that he wished to withdraw this Motion and replace it with Motion No. W21M162.

### W21M161 – Councillor Catherine Connolly

*"That this Health Forum calls for a Full Statutory Inquiry into the abuse perpetuated on the residents at the Brothers of Charity Services in Galway in view of the utter failure of both the Hynes Report and the McCoy Report to address in any real and/or meaningful how such abuse could happen to such vulnerable people together with their utter failure of both reports to deal with the inexcusable delay in publishing the original McCoy Report."*

Proposed by Councillor Catherine Connolly, seconded by Councillor Declan Bree and adopted.

### W22M162 – Councillor Declan Bree

*"Taking into consideration the fact that Professor Tom Keane has given assurances that Cancer Services would only be transferred to proposed Centres of Excellence when improved services were guaranteed in such Centres, and alarmed at the fact that transfers of services have taken place in the South East despite the fact that 36 of 48 national minimum standards for quality and safety were deficient, and further alarmed at the devastating impact that current cut backs will have on the ability of University Hospital Galway to deliver cancer services in accordance with the National Cancer Control Programme, and further recognising that the outcomes for patients with breast cancer treated in Sligo General Hospital are of the highest standard, this Regional Health Forum again calls on the Government and the Minister for Health to reverse the decision to transfer the Breast Cancer service from Sligo."*

Proposed by Councillor Declan Bree, seconded by Councillor Imelda Henry and adopted.

#### **W22M163**

*That this Forum discuss the Home Help Service:*

- a) *Cut backs in service;*
- (b) *Appeals system/procedure*

Proposed by Councillor Bernard McGuinness, seconded by Councillor Liam Blaney and adopted. A debate ensued during which members expressed their serious concern regarding the reduction in the number of Home Help hours allocated to patients in the community.

#### **W22M164**

*"That this Health Forum receives an urgent explanation for the failure to open the Temporary Sexual Assault Unit in Galway City despite repeated promises from the HSE West to open the said unit and in particular the most recent commitment/promise to open the unit on the 25<sup>th</sup> May 2009 and then subsequently the end of June and further that this Forum now receive clarification as to when the Unit is to open and the current status of same and furthermore the status of the proposal for a permanent Sexual Assault Unit in the grounds of Merlin Park Hospital."*

Proposed by Councillor Catherine Connolly, seconded by Councillor Declan Bree and adopted.

Mr. Alan Moran Hospital Network Manager stated that it is hoped that the Sexual Assault Unit will commence operation in a temporary location during the month of August this year.

#### **W22M165**

*"That the HSE does not proceed with the centralisation of administration of Medical Cards, given that the existing system works perfectly well"*

Proposed by Councillor Michael Mullins, seconded by Councillor Bernard McGuinness and adopted.

It was also agreed that a report on the proposed centralisation of the **Medical Card processing system** will be provided at the next meeting of the Regional Health Forum.

### **237/22/09 Home Help Hours**

Members requested details of the budget and no. of hours allocated to each local health area in the HSE West.

***It was agreed that Mr. Seamus McNulty Assistant National Director PCCC Services HSE West will circulate the relevant details to all members of the Forum.***

### **238/22/09 Service Plan 2009/Plean Seirbhíse 2009**

Due to time constraints, it was unanimously agreed that this item would be deferred to each of the next Committee Meetings.

### **239/22/09 Any Other Business/Aon Ghnó eile**

#### MRSA

Councillor Padraig Conneely Chairman expressed concern at reports in the media regarding the fact that Galway University Hospital and Merlin Park University Hospital have the highest level of incidents of MRSA in Ireland.

In reply, Dr. Séan Conroy Director of the Regional Health Office pointed out that both Hospitals had high levels of activity and complex cases, which resulted in the likelihood of higher levels of MRSA. He pointed out there are active Infection Control Committees in all Hospitals in the HSE.

It was agreed that a presentation will be made to a future meeting of the Regional Health Forum by Professor Martin Cormican, Consultant Microbiologist on measures being taken by the HSE to eliminate MRSA.

***Mr. Alan Moran, Hospital Network Manager, HSE West to arrange.***

#### Swine Flu

Councillor Sean McGowan asked if the HSE had a plan in place in the event of an outbreak of Swine Flu in Ireland.

***It was agreed that Dr. Jacky Jones Health Promotion Manager HSE West will arrange for a report on preparations and plans by the HSE be provided at the next Regional Health Forum Meeting.***

#### Vaccination for Swine Flu

Councillor Mullins requested clarification regarding a vaccination for Swine Flu. Mr. Seamus McNulty Assistant National Director PCCC Services HSE West stated that arrangements were being put in place so as to provide a vaccination for the population during late autumn.

#### **240/22/09 Date and Time of Next Meeting/Dáta agus Am an Chéad Chruinnithe Eile**

The next meeting of the Regional Health Forum West will take place on **Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2009 at 2.00pm in the Education Centre, HSE Offices, Merlin Park, Galway.**

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed:**

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**Cathaoirleach/Chairman**

Adopted at Regional Health Forum Meeting on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2009