

CORRESPONDENCE

SEPTEMBER 2019 COUNCIL MEETING

- E-Mail received on 10th July, 2019, from Parliamentary Affairs, Health Service Executive, enclosing Letter from Ms. Colette Cowan, Chief Executive Officer, UL Hospitals Group, in reply to resolution adopted by the Council asking the Minister for Health “(i) how much is the HSE spending on private ambulances in UHL; and (ii) that the 17 beds closed on March 29th be re-opened with immediate effect.”
- Letter received on 16th July, 2019, from the Meetings Administrator, Kerry County Council, in relation to resolution passed by the Council, and issued to all Local Authorities, “That, considering obligations under the Good Friday Agreement, Kerry County Council calls on the Irish Government to bring the Equal Status Act in line with legislation in the 6 County state and include ‘political belief’ as an unlawful ground for discrimination.”
- Letter received on 16th July, 2019, from the Meetings Administrator, Kerry County Council, in relation to resolution passed by the Council, and issued to all Local Authorities, “That, we write to the Minister for Defence and An Taoiseach asking that the long overdue medals for gallantry and distinguished service specifically for the Irish soldiers of A Company, who served at Jadotville in 1961, be awarded. These medals were promised by Former Taoiseach, Enda Kenny, in his final days in Office and still they have not been received.”
- E-Mail received on 19th July, 2019, from the Chief Executive’s Office, Leitrim County Council, and issued to all Local Authorities, enclosing letter sent to Mr. Michael Creed, TD, Minister for Agriculture, advising that the Council had unanimously agreed to write to the Minister to oppose the EU Mercosur Trade Deal.

- Letter received on 29th July, 2019, from the Office of the Taoiseach in reply to resolution adopted by the Council that, in view of the damage spiralling insurance costs are causing to community groups, voluntary organisations, charities and small business, Limerick City and County Council calls on the Government to accelerate its insurance reform programme. In particular, the Council calls on the Government to immediately establish a distinct Insurance Fraud Unit with An Garda Síochána, establish an interim Judicial Council which will address excessive awards made in our Courts and insist on greater transparency in relation to claims and premiums from Irish insurers.
- E-Mail received on 25th July, 2019, from the Office of the Minister of State, Michael D'Arcy, TD, in reply to resolution adopted by the Council that, in view of the damage spiralling insurance costs are causing to community groups, voluntary organisations, charities and small business, Limerick City and County Council calls on the Government to accelerate its insurance reform programme. In particular, the Council calls on the Government to immediately establish a distinct Insurance Fraud Unit with An Garda Síochána, establish an interim Judicial Council which will address excessive awards made in our Courts and insist on greater transparency in relation to claims and premiums from Irish insurers.
- Letter received on 29th July, 2019, from the Office of the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government in reply to resolution adopted by the Council requesting additional funding to clear the backlog of approved Disabled Persons Grants in Limerick City and County.
- Letter received on 1st August, 2019, from the Office of the Minister for Health in reply to resolution adopted by the Council (i) calling on the Minister to make an unannounced visit to Ennis and Limerick hospitals; (ii) requesting that the Minister meet with the Council and TD Elected Representatives, together with TDs in Clare and North Tipperary, to discuss the future of the health service within the UL Hospitals Group; (iii) requesting an urgent public meeting with members of the HSE Executive and Department of Health to explore ways in which the trolley crisis at UHL can be eased by looking at alternative ways to utilise the facilities in St. John's, Ennis and Nenagh

Hospitals; and (iv) requesting that the Minister immediately look at ways to reopen St. John's, Nenagh and Ennis A&E injury clinics on a 24-hour basis and consider ways of giving all 3 hospitals specific geriatric ED facilities.

- Letter received on 12th August, 2019, from Mr. Simon Harris, TD, Minister for Health, in reply to resolution adopted by the Council (i) calling on the Minister to make an unannounced visit to Ennis and Limerick hospitals; (ii) requesting that the Minister meet with the Council and TD Elected Representatives, together with TDs in Clare and North Tipperary, to discuss the future of the health service within the UL Hospitals Group; (iii) requesting an urgent public meeting with members of the HSE Executive and Department of Health to explore ways in which the trolley crisis at UHL can be eased by looking at alternative ways to utilise the facilities in St. John's, Ennis and Nenagh Hospitals; and (iv) requesting that the Minister immediately look at ways to reopen St. John's, Nenagh and Ennis A&E injury clinics on a 24-hour basis and consider ways of giving all 3 hospitals specific geriatric ED facilities.
- Letter received on 23rd August, 2018, from Ms. Colette Cowan, Chief Executive Officer, UL Hospitals Group, in reply to resolution adopted by the Council (i) calling on the Minister for Health to make an unannounced visit to Ennis and Limerick hospitals; (ii) requesting that the Minister meet with the Council and TD Elected Representatives, together with TDs in Clare and North Tipperary, to discuss the future of the health service within the UL Hospitals Group; (iii) requesting an urgent public meeting with members of the HSE Executive and Department of Health to explore ways in which the trolley crisis at UHL can be eased by looking at alternative ways to utilise the facilities in St. John's, Ennis and Nenagh Hospitals; and (iv) requesting that the Minister immediately look at ways to reopen St. John's, Nenagh and Ennis A&E injury clinics on a 24-hour basis and consider ways of giving all 3 hospitals specific geriatric ED facilities; furthermore, requesting that the following information be provided: the total number of Consultant vacancies at University Hospital Limerick Group to include a breakdown of (i) no. of Consultant vacancies in each of the six hospitals in the UHL Group; (ii) no. of Consultant vacancies by speciality in each of the six hospitals; (iii) length of time each Consultant post has been vacant; (iv) recruitment efforts made, i.e. position advertised, number of applications for that vacant post, timeline on filling that vacant post; (v) no. of Consultants by speciality currently working in each of the six hospitals.

- Letter received on 2nd September, 2019, from the Office of the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, in reply to invitation to the Minister to attend a Special Meeting of the Council to provide a briefing on the Directly Elected Mayor with Executive Functions.
 - E-mail received on 10th September, 2019, from the Office of the Meetings Administrator, Sligo County Council, in relation to resolution adopted by the Council and circulated to all local authorities for support “That, Sligo County Council delay (i) the testing of 5G and the roll-out of 5G in County Sligo (2) call on ComReg to delay the licensing of its roll-out and (3) calls on the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and the Environment to establish the facts about the radiation impact of 5G and to delay the roll-out across the country until a full assessment of the health and environmental implications are carried out with a report compiled and presented to the Oireachtas.
-

From: pqmidwestacute@hse.ie [mailto:pqmidwestacute@hse.ie]
Sent: Wednesday, July 10, 2019 9:56 AM
To: Clune, James <james.clune@limerick.ie>
Cc: minister's_office@health.gov.ie
Subject: Please see attached response to your Rep ref REPDR/19/02588

Dear Mr Clune

Please see UL Hospitals Group response to your representation in relation to UHL private ambulance spend & Bed Closures.

Please see attached response to your Rep Ref: REPDR/19/02588

Yours sincerely,
Parliamentary Affairs,
Health Service Executive

CC/JC/MMCM

Email: pqmidwestacute@hse.ie

03rd July 2019

Mr James Clune
Meetings Administrator
Corporate Services
Limerick City and County Council
Corporate Headquarters
Merchants Quay
Co. Limerick

RE: REPDR/19/02588: UHL - Private ambulance spend & bed closure

Dear Mr Clune,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your correspondence in relation to the above.

Private ambulance transport is used for inter hospital transfers and the transfer of patients to community care settings. Private ambulance transport is only used when the National Ambulance Service (NAS) are unable to provide the required transport. The transfer of patients between hospitals and community settings is required to free up bed capacity for admitted patients from the Emergency Department.

Please see the below table which outlines the amount University Hospital Limerick have spent on private ambulances in the years 2011 to 2018.

In relation to your query on the closure of the 17 bed Medical Short Stay Unit, by way of background, Ward 1A (17-bed Medical Short Stay Unit) was located in the space vacated by the old Emergency Department at UHL and was only ever intended as a temporary measure. After the old ED was vacated in 2017, staff put forward, and management considered, a number of proposals for its optimal use. The result of that process was that a new acute fracture unit would be developed in this area to allow us manage the high volume of patients attending orthopaedic services.

The Medical Short Stay Unit/1A was opened on a temporary basis and, being a relatively confined space, is not optimal for inpatients. The space was to be handed over to the building contractor in December 2018 to commence the works to convert the area into a fracture unit. That work was postponed to allow us keep the Medical Short Stay Unit open through the winter period. However, the Medical Short Stay Unit closed at the end of March 2019 so work on the acute fracture clinic could commence in line with the original plan.

Work is now underway on the Acute Fracture Unit and, once complete, this will have a significant benefit for patients attending our busy fracture clinic in terms of reduced wait times and improved patient experience. It will also allow for patients with specific injuries to be assessed in the new unit rather than in the ED.

The other main element of the works in the former ED allowed for the relocation and expansion of the Acute Medical Assessment Unit at UHL. The AMAU assesses and treats acutely unwell medical patients, who are referred from their GP, the Emergency Department or other consultants within UL Hospitals Group. In 2018, 3,134 patients were assessed in AMAU, many of whom could otherwise have faced long waits in the ED. Since January 2019, the AMAU service has expanded from 17 to 19 assessment bays and from a five-day service to a 24-7 service.

I am aware there was considerable commentary around Ward 1A around the time the decision to close it as a Medical Short Stay Unit was put into effect.

However, I must also emphasise that during the first quarter of 2019, a total of 22 beds were opened elsewhere in the hospital. These included 12 surgical short stay beds; three cardiology beds; two intensive care beds and five medical beds. Rather than losing bed capacity, there was a net gain of five beds at UHL over the period concerned.

I trust this clarifies the position, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,



Colette Cowan
Chief Executive Officer
UL Hospitals Group

UHL spend on private ambulances from 2011 – 2018

| | 2011 € | 2012 € | 2013 € | 2014 € | 2015 € | 2016 € | 2017 € | 2018 € |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| University Hospital Limerick | 4,218 | 39,018 | 241,182 | 207,566 | 306,676 | 459,567 | 338,705 | 452,593 |

Seirbhísí Corparáideacha

Comhairle Contae Chiarraí,
Áras an Chontae,
Trá Lí, Co. Chiarraí.



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHIARRAÍ KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

Corporate Services

Kerry County Council,
County Buildings,
Tralee, Co. Kerry.

Guthán | Tel 066 7183514 Facs | Fax 066 7183848 Rphost | Email secretar@kerrycoco.ie Suiomh | Web www.kerrycoco.ie

16 July 2019



To Each Local Authority

A Chairde,

I write to inform you that the members of Kerry County Council at their recent meeting adopted the following resolution.

“Considering obligations under the Good Friday Agreement (GFA), this Council calls on the Irish Government to bring the Equal Status Act in line with legislation in the 6 County state and include 'political belief' as an unlawful ground for discrimination.”

It was agreed to circulate this motion to all local authorities for their attention and consideration.

Mise, le meas,

Liam Quinlan,
Meetings Administrator



GAEILGE AGUS FÁILTE

Seirbhísí Corparáideacha

Comhairle Contae Chiarraí,
Áras an Chontae,
Trá Lí, Co. Chiarraí.



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHIARRAÍ KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

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16 July 2019



To Each Local Authority

A Chairde,

I write to inform you that the members of Kerry County Council at their recent meeting adopted the following resolution.

“That we write to the Minister for Defence and An Taoiseach asking that the long over due medals for gallantry and distinguished service specifically for the Irish soldiers of A Company who served at Jadotville in 1961 be awarded. These medals were promised by former Taoiseach Enda Kenny in his final days in Office and still they have not been received”.

It was agreed to circulate this motion to all local authorities for their attention and consideration.

Mise, le meas,

Liam Quinlan,
Meetings Administrator



From: Kathleen McGovern Ellis [mailto:kellis@leitrimcoco.ie]

Sent: Friday, July 19, 2019 10:03 AM

To: secretar <secretar@carlowcoco.ie>; Cavan Co Co <info@cavancoco.ie>; Clare Co Co <secretar@clarecoco.ie>; Corporate Affairs <corporate.affairs@corkcoco.ie>; Info Donegal <info@donegalcoco.ie>; DunLaoghaire/Rathdown CoCo <corp@dlrcoco.ie>; Fingal Co Co <genpurp@fingalcoco.ie>; Galway Co Co <ghealy@galwaycoco.ie>; Kerry Co Co <breidy@kerrycoco.ie>; Kildare Co Co <secretar@kildarecoco.ie>; info <info@kilkennycoco.ie>; CorporateMessages <CorporateMessages@laoiscoco.ie>; Customer Services <customerservices@limerick.ie>; Longford Co Co <secretar@longfordcoco.ie>; Info @ Louth <info@louthcoco.ie>; Mayo County Council HR Dept <persoff@mayococo.ie>; Customer Service <customerservice@meathcoco.ie>; Monaghan Co Co <secretar@monaghancoco.ie>; Secretary <secretary@tipperarycoco.ie>; Offaly Co Co <rcarroll@offalycoco.ie>; Roscommon County Manager <secretar@roscommoncoco.ie>; Customer Services <customerservices@sligococo.ie>; South Dublin Co Co <secretariatdept@sdublincoco.ie>; Secretary <secretary@tipperarycoco.ie>; Waterford Co Co <countysec@waterfordcoco.ie>; Secretar (SEO Corporate Affairs) <Secretar@westmeathcoco.ie>; Postmaster Wexford County Council <postmaster@wexfordcoco.ie>; Wicklow Co Co <cosec@wicklowcoco.ie>

Subject: EU Mercosur Trade Deal

Importance: High

A Chara,

Please find attached Resolution passed by Leitrim County Council at their July meeting in relation to the above for your information and attention.

Your sincerely

Kathleen McGovern Ellis

Chief Executive's Office


Leitrim County Council, Aras an Chontae, Cafrick on Shannon, Co. Leitrim



Comhairle Contae Liatroma Leitrim County Council

Áras an Chontae
Cora Droma Rúisc
Contae Liatroma
N41 PF67

Áras an Chontae
Carrick on Shannon
Co. Leitrim
N41 PF67

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🌐 www.leitrimcoco.ie
✉ customerservices@leitrimcoco.ie
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18th July 2019

Minister Michael Creed, TD,
Minister for Agriculture
Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine,
Agriculture House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
DO2 WK12

Re: EU Mercosur Trade Deal

Dear Minister Creed,

I wish to inform you at the July meeting of Leitrim County Council the Members unanimously agreed that I write to you to oppose the EU Mercosur Trade Deal.

I look forward to hearing from you in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

Kieran Brett
Meetings Administrator

cc MEPS, Farming Organisations and All Local Authorities

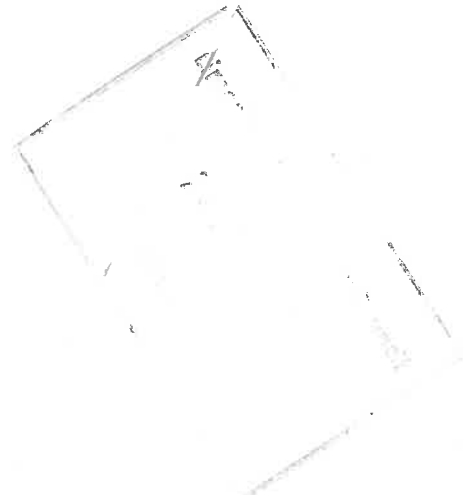


Oifig an Taoisigh
Office of the Taoiseach



25th July 2019

Mr. James Clune
Meetings Administrator
Limerick City & County Council
Corporate Headquarters
Merchants Quay
Co. Limerick



Dear Mr. Clune,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 22nd July 2019 to the Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar T.D.

I have forwarded a copy of your correspondence to the Minister for Justice and Equality, Charlie Flanagan T.D., and to Minister of State Michael D'Arcy T.D., who has special responsibility for Financial Services and Insurance, for their attention.

Yours sincerely,

Mary Timmins
Assistant Private Secretary to the Taoiseach

Telephone: 01-6194000

E-mail: taoiseach@taoiseach.gov.ie

From: Minister of State Finance <mos@finance.gov.ie>
Sent: Thursday, July 25, 2019 4:20 PM
To: Customer Services <customerservices@limerick.ie>
Subject: RE: Motion of Limerick City and County Council

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Organisation. Do not follow guidance, click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Clune,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter which was forwarded to Minister of State Michael D'Arcy.

Our Ref: FIN-MoS-00454-2019

Kind Regards,

Lisa Berns

Office of the Minister of State

An Roinn Airgeadais

Department of Finance

Tithe an Rialtais, Sráid Mhuirfean Uachtarach, Baile Átha Cliath 2, D02 R583

Government Buildings, Upper Merrion Street, Dublin 2, D02 R583

**An Roinn Tithíochta,
Pleanála agus Rialtais Áitiúil**
Department of Housing,
Planning and Local Government



Oifig an Aire
Office of the Minister



25 July 2019

Mr. James Clune
Limerick City & County Council
Corporate Headquarters,
Merchants Quay,
Limerick.

RE: HPLG-MO-01795-2019

Dear Mr. Clune,

I have been asked by Mr. Eoghan Murphy T.D., Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, to acknowledge receipt of your letter in connection with a request for additional funding for disabled persons grant .

On behalf of the Minister I thank you for your correspondence, which has been referred to the relevant Section in the Department for appropriate action.

Yours sincerely,

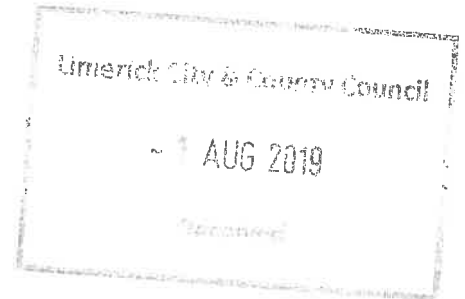
Niamh Redmond
Private Secretary



29 July 2019

Ref: MSHD0477-19

Mr James Clune
Limerick City & County Council
Corporate Headquarters
Merchants Quay
Co. Limerick
V94 EH90



Dear Mr Clune,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your recent letter requesting the Minister to:

- (1) Call on the Minister for Health, Simon Harris T.D. to make an unannounced visit to Ennis and Limerick hospitals.
- (2) Request that the Minister meet with Limerick City and County Council and T.D. elected representatives together with the T.D.'s in Clare and North Tipperary to discuss the future of the health service within the UL Hospitals group.
- (3) Request an urgent public meeting with members of the HSE Executive and Department of Health to explore ways in which the trolley crisis at UHL can be eased by looking at alternative ways to utilise the facilities in St. John's, Ennis and Nenagh Hospitals.
- (4) Request that the Minister immediately look at ways to reopen St John's, Nenagh and Ennis A&E injury clinics on a 24 hour basis and consider ways of giving all 3 hospitals specific geriatric ED facilities.

Your letter will be brought to the attention of the Minister at the earliest opportunity.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Matthew O'Gorman'.

Matthew O'Gorman
Private Secretary



08 August 2019
MSH3707-19

Mr James Clune
Meetings Administrator
Corporate Services
Limerick City and County Council
Corporate Headquarters
Merchants Quay
Co. Limerick

Dear Mr. Clune

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your correspondence concerning UL Hospital Groups.

Yours sincerely

Simon Harris T.D.
Minister for Health

CC/JC/MMCM

Email: pgmidwestacute@hse.ie

23rd August 2019

Mr James Clune
Meetings Administrator
Corporate Services
Limerick City and County Council
Corporate Headquarters
Merchants Quay
Co. Limerick



RE: REPDR/19/03416: Request for meeting with Minister for Health; call for greater use of model 2 hospitals within UL Hospitals Group; request for information on consultant recruitment

Dear Mr Clune,

In relation to your letter of 22nd July 2019, I wish to respond to some of the matters raised.

UL Hospitals Group operates as a single provider of acute hospital care across our six sites. Ennis, Nenagh and St John's hospitals are essential to us in providing care and will remain so. As you are aware, significant reform has occurred in the delivery of healthcare in the Mid-West over the last decade. These reforms have taken place with patients at the core of all such programmes. The publication of The Report of the Acute Medicine Programme (2010) classifies all acute hospitals under four generic models that describe in precise detail what services may safely be provided at each site.

Within the UL Hospitals Group we have two Model 2 Hospitals, Ennis and Nenagh Hospitals. St John's Hospital is classified as a Model 2S Hospital, i.e. it can carry out intermediate surgery which requires in-patient stay and accommodation in addition to day case surgery. These hospitals have a pivotal role to play in the delivery of high-quality patient care within the region.

Securing the Future of Smaller Hospitals: a Framework for Development, published in February 2013, shaped the future of Ennis, Nenagh and St. John's Hospital and reaffirmed the integral role these hospitals have to play in the future growth in healthcare in this region: in the provision of ambulatory care, chronic disease management, day surgery, five-day surgery, endoscopy, Local Injury and Medical Assessment Units and much more besides.

Activity in our model 2S hospital in St John's continues to increase. St John's Hospital accepts significant transfers from University Hospital Limerick each day. A total of 1,697 patients were transferred to St John's Hospital in 2018 incl. 1,138 from the Emergency Department, 433 from the in-patient wards, 87 from the Acute Medical Assessment Unit and 39 from other areas of the hospital.

This level of patient transfer has continued in 2019 and greatly assists in alleviating pressure on UHL's services.

St John's Hospital has been advocating for a major capital development of the hospital since 2000 to provide new inpatient accommodation in line with current standards i.e. single patient rooms. A HSE-commissioned feasibility study in July 2018 confirmed that a 120-bed development was possible on the hospital site but this project has yet to be progressed at national level. UL Hospitals Group supports the development of St John's Hospital as the scheduled care hospital for the Group in line with the proposals in the Project Ireland 2040 Plan for scheduled care hospitals in Galway and Cork. ULHG would welcome such a development, which would allow the transfer of more scheduled work, both surgical and medical, from University Hospital Limerick to St John's Hospital.

Activity in our model 2 hospitals in Ennis and Nenagh also continues to increase.

Last year, there was a 5% increase in referrals to the Medical Assessment Unit in Ennis Hospital in 2018 and a 5% increase in attendances in the Injury Unit. In Nenagh Hospital, the number of referrals to the Medical Assessment Unit increased by 9% in 2018 and the number of attendances at the Injury Unit also by 9%. It is encouraging that members of the public and GPs continue to use these services in increasing numbers. The Group's commitment to developing these services in Ennis and Nenagh is demonstrated by the redevelopment of the MAU in Nenagh, which opened in May 2019, and ongoing redesign of the Injury Unit in Ennis.

Avoiding hospital admissions through increased use of ambulatory care and assessment units is central to the vision of the future set out in Slaintecare. Three years ago, UL Hospitals Group established the 24/7 Bed Bureau dedicated phone line, which is manned by clinical staff, as a single point of contact for GPs. On a daily basis more than half of all attendances to the ED at UHL has a GP referral. But GPs and their patients very often and very understandably prefer to be seen in an assessment unit in the first instance. A GP wishing to have their patient assessed by a senior clinician will contact the Bed Bureau and will be given access to one of the Medical Assessment Units at UHL, Ennis, Nenagh or St John's Hospital according to the referring GP's preference.

One of the aims of the Bed Bureau is to avoid unnecessary ED waits for older people with chronic medical conditions. In 2018 there were 14,941 GP referrals via the Bed Bureau as opposed to 13,950 in 2017, however following a conversation between the GP and clinical staff in the bed bureau, a number of these referrals may have to present to ED given the nature of their medical complaint, but we aim to accommodate the majority of referrals with an assessment appointment in either the AMU or MAU's.

This means more patients are avoiding unnecessary waits in the ED. The expansion of the AMAU at UHL from 17 to 19 bays, and the increasing number of GPs using the Bed Bureau, is also encouraging in this regard. It is of interest that GPs will use the Bed Bureau to book their patients for assessment in

another county, for example a family doctor in west Limerick may refer his/her patient to the MAU in Ennis or Nenagh.

A separate nurse-led Respiratory Assessment Unit has opened in Nenagh Hospital and had over 700 attendances in its first year of operations. Led by an advanced nurse practitioner and clinical nurse specialist, under the clinical governance of the consultants in UHL, this service opened for people with chronic respiratory conditions in mid-2017 and the model is being also being considered for Ennis Hospital. In 2018, respiratory services in Nenagh were further augmented with the opening of a new OPD clinic for patients with pulmonary fibrosis, one of the most serious and debilitating lung conditions. This clinic in Tipperary spares patients with limited mobility the inconvenience of a journey to Limerick.

This latter clinic is an example of the role model 2 hospitals have to play in enhancing scheduled care option across the region. It is national policy that appropriate OPD activity is maximized in model 2 hospitals and UL Hospitals Group is committed to this, with increasing numbers of consultants who are ordinarily based in UHL running more clinics in Ennis and Nenagh in the hub-and-spoke model.

A new pulmonary fibrosis clinic also opened in Ennis Hospital in 2018, for example, and this is one of a number of new specialist medical OPD clinics to have opened in Ennis in recent years. Others include dermatology, renal and perinatal mental health. Much of the OPD activity in Ennis currently takes place in outdated accommodation in the former doctor's residence. This is a protected structure which has necessitated an offsite solution for the continued expansion of OPD services in Ennis. Expanding appropriate OPD and day services in model 2 hospitals – and freeing up space for more complex and acute care in model 4 hospitals – is national policy.

The opening of the Cataract Centre in the state-of-the-art theatres in Nenagh Hospital in 2018 is a great example of what smaller hospitals can offer in terms of day surgery. This initiative has already made a difference in significantly reducing wait times for surgery for a largely older group of patients, enhancing their quality of life. It is vital for our patients that day surgery services at all our model 2 hospitals continue to expand.

Our model 2 hospitals accept transfers of appropriate patients from UHL on a daily basis. These patients can either be stepped down from an inpatient ward in UHL or they may, where a clinician has decided it is appropriate, transfer to Ennis or Nenagh (or St John's) directly from the ED in UHL.

The recent opening of the 16-bed single room inpatient accommodation in Nenagh will further support the transfer of appropriate patients from UHL. A Clinical Recovery and Support Unit (CRSU) has also recently been opened at Nenagh Hospital, enabling patients from across the Group who require ongoing rehabilitation to access supports from health and social care professionals (physiotherapists, occupational therapists etc). This initiative has identified people who have been inpatients for longer than 30 days who no longer need to be in the model 4 hospital in UHL but who have ongoing care needs. These may be complex discharges with underlying medical (e.g. ongoing requirement for IV

antibiotics; recovering from amputation), rehabilitation or social issues. The service comes under the clinical governance of a consultant physician and is supported through the recruitment of additional therapists (physio, OT, SLT etc) to help this complex group of less acutely unwell patients in their rehabilitation and recovery as they continue their journey. The opening of the CRSU will improve patient flow within the Group and make a contribution towards alleviating overcrowding in UHL.

Please see overleaf for more comprehensive detail on the services available in Ennis, Nenagh and St John's hospitals.

As you can see from the above, UL Hospitals Group already does a great deal to manage appropriate activity in its smaller hospitals and this will continue to be the case. As you are aware, opening 24-7 Emergency Departments in any of the hospitals concerned would require a redesignation of the hospital and would also require significant investment in intensive care, high dependency, emergency theatre/anaesthetic facilities, advanced diagnostics and much more besides. Current difficulties in recruiting consultants, as correctly identified in your motion, are also a factor here when you consider that some of the largest teaching hospitals in the country cannot fill posts at present.

It must also be noted that opening a 24-7 ED in any of the three hospitals would not add a single bed to the Group's overall capacity. This is significant when your motion primarily concerns resolving the issue of overcrowding. Ennis, Nenagh and St John's Hospital typically operate at full capacity, while UHL typically operates above its capacity. In spite of measures taken to ensure UL Hospitals Group uses its bedstock efficiently (the Group has the shortest average length of stay and the lowest readmission rates in the country), the reality is that there is insufficient bed capacity to support the needs of the MidWest. As you are aware, the 60-Bed Ward Block is currently under construction at UHL and I expect these beds will become operational in late 2020. This important project will, upon completion, help us begin to address our capacity issues in the region as well as greatly improve our options for isolating patients and managing infections. The larger 96-bed project is included in the capital plan Project Ireland 2040.

I append here details requested in your letter around consultant recruitment. I am unable to provide details broken down by site. UL Hospitals operates as a single group across six sites. Many consultants will work between sites and one of the advantages for same, as noted above, is that smaller hospitals now have better access than ever before to specialists.

Finally, and in recognition of the recent changes at local government level, UL Hospitals Group intends to host an information evening in UHL in the coming weeks for all elected members of Limerick City and County Council, Clare County Council and Tipperary County Council. You will be notified of the details in due course and I look forward to meeting those who attend.



Working together, caring for you

Ospidéal na hOllscoile, Luimneach,
Bóthar Naomh Neasáin, Tuar an Daill, Luimneach V94 F858
Tel: 061 301111 Facs: 061 301165

University Hospital Limerick,
St. Nesson's Road, Dooradoyle, Limerick V94 F858
Tel: 061 301111 Fax: 061 301165

I trust this clarifies the position, please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely, ,

Colette Cowan
Chief Executive Officer
UL Hospitals Group

The Number of Consultant vacancies and length of time vacant in UL Hospitals Group broken down by specialty:

| Consultant Specialty | Number of vacant posts | Vacant from |
|---|------------------------|--|
| Consultant Anaesthetist | 4 | No. 1 - December 2014- ICU post has been advertised several times and filled and applicant withdrew from post prior to start date, advertised again in 2019 - no applicants for post No .2 - February 2018 - candidate in clearance for this post No.3 - October 2018 No.4 - January 2019 |
| Consultant Vascular Surgeon | 1 | New post - candidate in clearance due to commence July 2020 |
| Consultant Urologist | 1 | New post - candidate in clearance due to commence Sept 2019 |
| Consultant Gastroenterologist | 1 | New post |
| Senior Lecturer/General Physician | 1 | 0.5 post vacant from January 2018 - change in title requested from CAAC at Sept meeting to have post as General Physician |
| Consultant Endocrinologist | 1 | New post approved in 2019. Post has been advertised and interviews due to be arranged for Sept 2019 |
| Consultant Geriatrician | 1 | Vacant from May 2019 - filled with locum consultant |
| Consultant Paediatrician/Lecturer | 1 | 0.5 post Vacant from January 2018 |
| Consultant Paediatrician si Cardiology | 1 | New post approved in 2019 - post to be advertised |
| Consultant Paediatrician si Respiratory | 1 | New post approved in 2019- post to be advertised |
| Total | 13 | |

The number of permanent Consultant positions advertised by UL Hospitals Group from January to June 2019

| Speciality | Number of Applicants | Status of post at 23/7/19 |
|---|----------------------|--|
| Anaesthesia s.i. Intensive Care Medicine | 0 | No applicants - post to be readvertised |
| Urology | 3 | Candidate in clearance for post |
| Ophthalmic Surgery | 2 | 2 candidates in clearance for these posts |
| Emergency Medicine | 5 | 4 candidates in clearance for these posts |
| Otolaryngology | 3 | Interview scheduled for July 31st |
| Endocrinology | 3 to date | Closing date 26/7/19 |
| Respiratory | 1 to date | Closing date 26/7/19 |

The number of Consultants by speciality working at UL Hospitals Group

| Directorate/Speciality | Number of Consultants |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Medicine | |
| Respiratory | 2 |
| Gastroenterology | 4.84 |
| Nephrology | 2.5 |
| Cardiology | 5.5 |
| Oncology | 4 |
| Rheumatology | 3 |
| Acute Medicine | 4 |
| Haematology | 5 |
| Palliative Medicine | 3 |
| Medicine for the Elderly | 4 |
| General Medicine | 5 |
| Dermatology | 4 |
| Infectious Diseases | 1 |
| Emergency Medicine | 9 |
| Endocrinology | 1 |
| Neurology | 2 |
| Peri Operative | |
| Vascular Surgery | 4 |
| Colorectal Surgery | 4.5 |
| Breast Surgery | 4 |
| General Surgery | 1 |
| Urology | 3 |
| Orthopaedics | 6 |
| ENT | 6 |
| Oral Max Fax | 2 |
| Ophthalmology | 4 |
| Anaesthetics | 18 |
| Diagnostics | |
| Radiology | 15 |
| Histopathology | 5 |
| Microbiology | 3 |
| Biochemistry | 1 |
| Pathology | 1 |
| Maternal/Child Health | |
| Paediatrics/Neonatology | 13.5 |
| Obstetrics and Gynaecology | 10.5 |
| Total | 161.34 |

Ennis Hospital:

Ennis Hospital has traditionally served the people of County of Clare and in recent years it has grown its services to now also provide ambulatory care services to many patients from other parts of the Mid-West.

Ennis Hospital Bed Complement:

- 50 single en-suite, in-patient beds
- 16 day beds
- Seven endoscopy beds
- Eight Medical Assessment Unit (MAU) trolleys
- Six Injury Unit (IU)trolleys

Patient services delivered at Ennis Hospital include:

- Injury Unit open 7 days per week
- Medical Assessment Unit open 7 days per week
- A broad range of cardiology services are provided including outpatient clinics and diagnostic investigations and a nurse-led Heart Failure Clinic and Cardiac Rehab
- Respiratory Services are well established in Ennis hospital supporting the management of chronic diseases such as COPD.
- A consultant led Renal Outpatient Clinic with the support of a clinical nurse specialist and onsite medical & diagnostic support is held in Ennis
- Diabetic Services are well established with a consultant-led service and monthly shared OPD clinics with the lead Consultant Endocrinologist for the group.
- An Outpatient Antimicrobial Therapy Service (OPAT) has been established
- Rheumatology Services are fully operational via OPD every Monday.
- Elective day surgery is performed in a two theatres suite supported by Pre-operative Assessment Service, the Surgical Day Unit and the Decontamination service.
- Pre-operative assessment is conducted in advance of the patient's admission for surgery
- The Surgical Day Ward has 12 bays, and nurse-led urology and hemachromatosis service.
- Day Surgery operative services provided at Ennis Hospital include colorectal surgery, breast day case surgery, gynaecology surgery, maxillofacial surgery, dental surgery for children and adults, plastic surgery, urology diagnostic assessments (cystoscopy) and surgery, general surgery and vascular surgery. Dermatology also provides a day surgery for procedures requiring both local and general anaesthetic.
- The Endoscopy Services is comprised of two procedure rooms and seven day beds. The unit and the service is one of the few centres in Ireland to have achieved Joint Advisory Group Accreditation (JAG) and it is currently the only approved centre for colorectal cancer screening in the west of Ireland.

- As part of the National Cancer Screening services, Ennis hospital through the services of a Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) manages the bowel screening programme for the region.
- The Outpatients Department offer appointments for ENT, gynaecology, general surgery, colorectal, orthopaedics, vascular, urology, genito-urinary, paediatric, warfarin nurse-led clinic, sexual health, dermatology, maxillofacial/plastics, palliative care, geriatric medicine and perinatal mental health.
- Laboratory service provides testing to inpatient, outpatient and day case presentations at Ennis Hospital including Clinical Biochemistry and Haematology testing. The hospital also provides a laboratory service to the General Practitioner community and the Community Hospitals in the Clare catchment area.
- The Radiology Department provides an imaging and reporting service to inpatients, outpatients and day case presentations at Ennis Hospital. It also provides a service to the General Practitioner community in County Clare. Radiology services provided are plain films (chest x-ray, limb x-rays etc), Ultrasound (US) and Computerised Tomography (CT).
- The new Physiotherapy Department was opened in 2015 and provides out-patient and in-patient programmes. The department sees orthopaedic, neurology and paediatric patients as outpatients. It also runs programmes on bone health, pulmonary rehab and women's health.
- The Pharmacy provides a clinical pharmacology service to all in-patients.
- Outreach antenatal incorporating a midwives clinic
- Antenatal classes where topics covered include pregnancy, care of the newborn, breastfeeding, labour and maternal recovery
- Infant Feeding Clinics
- Paediatric Clinics
- Gynaecology Clinics
- Palliative care service led by a clinical nurse specialist (CNS)

Nenagh Hospital:

Nenagh Hospital has traditionally served the people of County of Tipperary and in recent years it has grown its services to now also provide ambulatory care services to many patients from other parts of the Mid-West.

Nenagh Hospital Bed Complement

- 49 patient medical beds, of which 19 are single rooms
- 10 surgical day ward beds
- 10 endoscopy beds
- Medical Assessment Unit (MAU) has seven examination bays three of which are single rooms
- Injury Unit (IU) has four examination bays

Patient services delivered at Nenagh Hospital include

- Injury Unit (IU) is open 8.00am to 8.00pm, 7 days a week
- Medical Assessment Unit (MAU) is operational Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm
- A range of specialist outpatient clinics are provided in Nenagh hospital: Dermatology, Rheumatology, Respiratory, Cardiology, Endocrine and Gastroenterology.
- A broad range of Cardiology Services are provided including Cardiology Out-Patient Clinics, Cardiology Diagnostic Services,
- Respiratory services provide a comprehensive service supporting the management of chronic diseases such as COPD.
- Sleep studies and Pulmonary rehab is also available on site
- Phototherapy treatment takes place in Nenagh Hospital
- Falls Collaborate Programme has been developed in partnership with the Physiotherapy Department for both inpatients and outpatients
- Community Intervention Teams and OPAT services for treating patients at home.
- Palliative Care Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) provides In-Patient Palliative Care
- Day Case Surgery – in line with best international practice and developments in medicine a wide range of surgery is provided across specialities in the Day Surgery Services at Nenagh Hospital. Day Surgery includes General Surgery, colo-rectal surgery, vascular, max fax, gynaecology, orthopaedics, dermatology, urology, dental for both children and special needs adults.
- Pre-operative assessment is conducted in advance of the patient's admission for surgery
- A new Theatre, Decontamination Suite and Day ward complex opened in 2014. The development – representing a circa €6.2-million capital investment by the HSE – comprises two new operating theatres, a minor procedure room, theatre recovery area, a 10-bed surgical day ward, pre-operative assessment facilities, a discharge lounge and other surgical department support spaces at first floor level.
- The Endoscopy suite has with two procedure rooms and 10 day beds

- Laboratory service provides testing to in-patient, outpatient and day case presentations at Nenagh Hospital including Clinical Biochemistry and Haematology testing.
- The radiology service provides an imaging and reporting service to in-patient, outpatient and day case presentations at Nenagh Hospital. It also provides a service to the General Practitioner community in County Tipperary. Radiology services provided are plain films including chest x-ray, abdominal x-ray, Ultrasound and CT scans (Computerised Tomography) and Theatre fluoroscopy services.
- Physiotherapy Department provides a variety of services to both inpatients and outpatients
- Pharmacy Department provides a clinical pharmacology service to all in-patients in Nenagh Hospital. It also dispenses to the Hospital of the Assumption, Para Medical Staff in North Tipperary and Area Medical Officers.
- Outpatient Gynaecology Clinics are run on site.
- Paediatric Clinics are also available in Nenagh.
- Under a nationally funded initiative, in 2018 Nenagh Hospital became a national centre of excellence for cataract surgery. This will see Nenagh Hospital not only play a significant role in reducing waiting lists for cataract surgery in the Midwest but will also make a mark nationally by insourcing patients from other regions.

St John's Hospital (Model 2S)

St John's Hospital is based in Limerick City serving the urban population base of Limerick city as well as patients from Co. Limerick and Clare and Tipperary. St John's is a registered Charity under the Charities Acts and is administered and managed in accordance with a Hospital Constitution approved by the Charities Regulator. The Hospital is controlled and governed by the Hospital Board and actively participates in UL Hospital Group by way of an annual Service Arrangement as a Section 38 Service Provider. St John's Hospital is a Model 2S hospital as designated under the "Securing the Future of Smaller Hospitals: A Framework for Development - providing in-patient elective surgery beds in addition to all the services of a regular Model 2 hospital.

St John's Hospital Bed Complement

- 89 In-Patient beds (19 Surgical, 70 Medical)
- 10 Day Care beds
- Six Medical Assessment Unit (MAU) trolleys
- Six Local Injury Unit (LIU) trolleys

Patient services delivered at St John's Hospital include

- Local Injury Unit (LIU) is open 8.00am to 6.00pm, Monday to Friday with average daily attendances of approx. 40 patients. The governance of the unit is provided by an ED Consultant in UHL and the service is delivered by Emergency Care Physicians and GPs.
- Medical Assessment Unit (MAU) is operational Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm.
- General Medicine - in-patient services including Respiratory, Rheumatology, Renal Palliative Care and Geriatric Medicine
- Surgical Services at Saint John's Hospital include the provision of outpatient assessment, preoperative assessment service, in-patient and day case diagnostic and therapeutic interventions as well as inpatient and day case surgery.
- Surgical in-patients - Colorectal, General, Vascular, Breast Reconstruction Surgery, ESWLs (Kidney Stone), Urology and Gynaecology and other non-cancer surgery via two theatres
- Day Theatre – services include Gynaecology, General Surgery, Breast Surgery, Pain Management, ENT and Urology
- Endoscopy services – Gastroscopy, Colonoscopy, Sigmoidoscopy, Proctoscopy, Bronchoscopy, Flexible Cystoscopy
- Day Ward – Cardiac Assessment, Venesections, Infusions
- Pain Service - incorporating OPD, Day Theatre and Pain Management group sessions
- Consultant Out-Patient Clinics - include Respiratory, General Medicine, ENT, Gynaecology, Surgery, Urology, Pain Management, Diabetes Care
- Radiology - includes X-ray, Ultrasound and CT.
- Laboratory Services - includes Haematology and Biochemistry and a comprehensive POCT service to the wards



Ospidéal OL UL Hospitals

Working together, caring for you

Ospidéal na hOllscoile, Luimneach,
Bóthar Naomh Neasáin, Tuar an Daill, Luimneach V94 F858
Tel: 061 301111 Facs: 061 301165

University Hospital Limerick,
St. Nessian's Road, Dooradoyle, Limerick V94 F858
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- Clinical Nurse Specialists in the areas of Diabetes, Continenence Management, Respiratory Care, Health Promotion, Infection Control, Palliative Care, Tissue Viability and Pain Management
- Dietetic Service - provides nutritional assessment, dietary advice, education and evaluation
- Physiotherapy Department - in-patient and out-patient service including back , pain and respiratory classes, women's health, pulmonary re-habilitation, post-operative care and physiotherapy support to the Geriatric service
- Pharmacy Department - providing a clinical pharmacology services to all in-patients and an out-patient Warfarin Clinic



**Óifig an Aire
Office of the Minister**

2 September, 2019

**Mr James Clune
Meetings Administrator
Limerick City and County Council
Corporate Headquarters
Merchants Quay
Limerick
V94 EH90**

Dear Mr Clune

I have been asked by Mr Eoghan Murphy TD, Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government to refer to your letter of 15 July, 2019 on behalf Limerick City and County Council inviting the Minister to a special meeting of the Council to provide a briefing on the directly elected mayor with executive functions.

The Minister would like to thank Limerick City and County Council for its kind invitation and for its interest in this hugely important reform of local government in Limerick.

While the Minister is of the view that meeting the Council is premature at this time, he has asked me to inform you that the Department is now working to implement the decision of the people of Limerick in the plebiscite of 24 May 2019 in favour of a directly elected mayor with executive functions for Limerick.

While the Local Government Act 2019 stipulates that the Minister must, within two years of the plebiscite vote, present a report with legislative proposals providing for a directly elected mayor to the Oireachtas, the Minister has recently announced his intention that this process would be achieved in 2020.





Preparation in terms of the Report and Legislation is underway and the Minister is determined to ensure appropriate consultation and engagement. A key element will be the establishment of an Implementation Advisory Group to advise the Minister on practical implementation. To ensure strong local input the Group will include membership from Limerick City and County Council, both executive and elected members, and other key stakeholders in Limerick.

The Minister has asked me to inform you the Department will be in touch with the Council again shortly to advance the formation of this Group and to seek nominations.

With best regards

Yours sincerely

Niamh Redmond
Private Secretary

From: Jo Anne McGonigle <jmcgonigle@sligococo.ie>

Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2019 11:05 AM

To: Each Local Authority

A Chara,

Attached please find a copy of resolution carried at the September Meeting of Sligo County Council.

The Members requested that a copy would also be circulated to all Local Authorities for your Members' information and attention.

Mise, le meas,

Jo-Anne

Jo-Anne McGonigle
on behalf of **Kevin Colreavy, Meetings Administrator**
Corporate Services Section, Sligo County Council



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE SHLIGIGH
ÁRAS AN CONTAE COIS ABHAINN SLIGEACH

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10th September, 2019

To/ **Each Local Authority**

At the September Ordinary Meeting of Sligo County Council, the following resolution was carried:

“That Sligo County Council delay (1) the testing of 5G and the roll-out of 5G in County Sligo (2) call on ComReg to delay the licensing of its roll-out and (3) calls on the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and the Environment to establish the facts about the radiation impact of 5G and to delay the roll-out across the country until a full assessment of the health and environmental implications are carried out with a report compiled and presented to the Oireachtas.”

The Members requested that a copy of this resolution would be circulated to all Local Authorities for their information and attention.

Yours sincerely,

Kevin Colreavy
Meetings Administrator

Corporate Services Section
Sligo County Council
County Hall
Riverside
Sligo
F91 Y763

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