



Príomhfheidhmeannach ag gníomhú di Grúpa
An Grúpa Ollscoile um Chúram Sláinte Saolta

Ospidéal Ollscoile na Gaillimhe
Bóthar an Chaisleáin Nua
Gaillimh H91 YR71 Éire
Fón: 091 893800
www.saolta.ie | @saoltagroup

Chief Executive Officer
Saolta University Health Care Group

University Hospital Galway
Newcastle Rd.
Galway H91 YR71 Ireland
Tel: 091 893800
www.saolta.ie | @saoltagroup



Deputy David Cullinane,
Leinster House,
Kildare St.,
Dublin 2.

25th July, 2024.

PQ 29416/24

'To ask the Minister for Health the reason for the closure of the pain management service at Sligo University Hospital; the number of approved consultant posts in this field working across the Saolta Hospital Group and Health Region West and North West; the number of filled posts, permanent and temporary, in tabular form; the steps he will take to re-open the pain services in the west and north west and ensure local access to pain services in line with Sláintecare; and if he will make a statement on the matter.' - David Cullinane

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the current position:

The two Consultants providing the Chronic Pain service in SUH have both moved to new roles in other hospitals. Recruitment to fill these two vacant Consultant Anaesthetic posts in the Pain service is actively ongoing. Advertisements are active in all appropriate websites and agencies for temporary posts, while the process for permanent filling of posts is undertaken. As a result, a Consultant has been recommended for temporary appointment but is currently going through IMC registration and therefore is likely to be late 2024 before he can start in this position.

A temporary Consultant commenced in early July to oversee the governance of the Pain Management and Education a psychologically-based rehabilitative treatment for people with persistent pain.

In relation to existing patients on our day case list and review outpatients, we are continuing to work through alternative arrangements for these patients. Patients will be contacted directly by the hospital when arrangements are in place for their follow up treatments/appointments.

Below is the number of approved consultant posts in this field working across the Saolta Hospital Group in tabular form:



	GUH	PUH	SUH	LUH
No. of approved Consultant Posts	1 WTE (2 x 0.5)	0	2	3**
No. of filled Consultant Posts				
➤ Permanent	2 x 0.5 WTE's	1*	-	3**
➤ Temporary		1*		

Note:

MUH

Mayo University Hospital have 1 WTE Pain Clinical Nurse Specialist.

PUH:

*1 Locum WTE Consultant Anaesthetist with SI in Pain Management who retired in 2019, however, continues to provide 1 day locum pain management service per week.

*1 WTE (permanent) Consultant Anaesthetist commenced in 2023 with a Fellowship in Pain Management and will commence Pain Clinics in August 2024. This Consultant also has anaesthetic commitments and works across Portiuncula University Hospital and Roscommon University Hospital.

RUH

There is no pain clinic in RUH, patients in this catchment area receive treatment in Ballinasloe or Galway.

SUH:

As outlined above, recruitment to fill these 2 vacant Consultant Anaesthetic posts in the Pain service is actively ongoing.

LUH:

**2 Consultant Anaesthetists – Acute Pain

**1 Consultant Anaesthetist - Chronic Pain

I hope this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

Ann Cosgrove,
Interim Chief Executive Officer
Saolta University Health Care Group.