

CC/AK/MC

Email: [pgmidwestacute@hse.ie](mailto:pgmidwestacute@hse.ie)

08th April 2024

Mr Alan Kelly TD  
Dàil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

**PQ 12138/24**

**To ask the Minister for Health the date on which he expects the medical assessment unit in Nenagh Hospital to move to operating 24-hour care. -Alan Kelly**

Dear Deputy Kelly,

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.

The expanded Medical Assessment Unit services across UL Hospitals Group are making a significant and positive impact on delivering timely care to thousands of patients referred by their GPs to hospital for urgent medical attention.

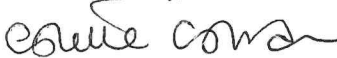
All three Mid-West MAUs are currently open from 8am-8pm. We are working with all stakeholders on planning for the continued expansion of our MAU services including a further extension of opening hours. It is envisaged that all three MAUs will move to 24/7 operations by Q4 2024.

In 2023, 4,146 patients were seen in Nenagh MAU compared to 2,470 on the previous year, representing a 68% increase. In total, 15,006 patients were referred to our Medical Assessment Units in Ennis, Nenagh and St John's, representing an 18% increase on 2022.

MAUs provide diagnosis and treatment for patients referred with a wide variety of medical conditions, including chest infections, COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), pneumonia, urinary tract infections, fainting episodes, clots in the leg, and anaemia. Patients are reviewed by a senior clinician and may require x-rays, blood tests, scans or further diagnostic imaging.

I trust this clarifies the position, please contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,



**Professor Colette Cowan**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**UL Hospitals Group**