

CC/AK/MC

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09th April 2024

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

PQ 12540/24

**To ask the Minister for Health when the decision was made to open the new community nursing home in Nenagh as a step down facility for UHL patients; who made the decision to do this; and on what date this will commence. -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 HSE is seeking to support UL Hospitals Group by temporarily running the new Community Nursing Unit (CNU) in Nenagh as a step down sub-acute facility.

Nenagh CNU has capacity for 50 residents. An additional 65 WTEs are required to facilitate the opening of this facility as a CNU.

The additional 65 WTEs are now approved and a recruitment plan is under development. Initial indications indicate a timeline of approximately one year to recruit these staff.

On this basis, the REO decided to repurpose the facility in the interim pending HIQA registration and the recruitment of staff.

This temporary measure is intended to provide immediate services to elderly people in north Tipperary who have been identified for sub-acute and rehabilitation needs.

This unit will be used for a period of about one year as a step down sub-acute facility which will be run by a private provider with expertise in such services. A procurement process has commenced to identify a suitable provider in line with HSE procurement rules. The facility will be a collaborative partnership between the HSE and the successful provider.

It is intended that this arrangement will be reviewed within one year and that Nenagh CNU will open 12 – 18 months after the contract commences with the private provider. This interim use will greatly support the region pending the completion of the first of two new 96 bed blocks for UHL scheduled to be completed in early 2025.

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**