

CC/AK/MC

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19<sup>th</sup> June 2024

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

**PQ 20825/24**

**To ask the Minister for Health if a private supplier has been sourced to manage the new CNU in Nenagh as a stepdown facility for UHL. -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.

Tendering for the temporary use of Nenagh CNU as a sub-acute rehabilitation facility is currently ongoing in line with the HSE's Contract Tender Management processes. We are currently at stage 2 of this process, which is the evaluation stage.

This interim use of Nenagh CNU as a sub-acute rehabilitation facility is a positive development for the wider region. The temporary utilisation of the 50 empty beds in Nenagh, pending the recruitment of staff to open the CNU and the delivery next year of additional acute bed capacity in our region, will increase capacity and improve the patient experience as we head into a challenging winter period. The impact of overcrowding on both patients and staff cannot be underestimated. The use of the facility, in the interim, will also help us to better manage elective admissions and ensure timely access to scheduled care across our acute hospitals.

The benefit of having access to rehabilitation and sub-acute care for our elderly population in North Tipperary and across the wider region must also be recognised. Older people will be able to avail of the right care and closer to their own homes and communities. Inpatient rehabilitation has many positive impacts, not least because it enables recovery of the older person, meaning they can live an independent life, for longer, in their own homes and reduce the overall risk of readmission to an acute hospital.

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

Yours sincerely,



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