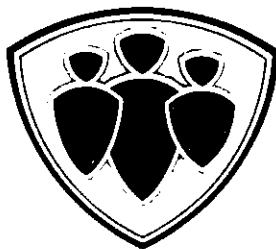
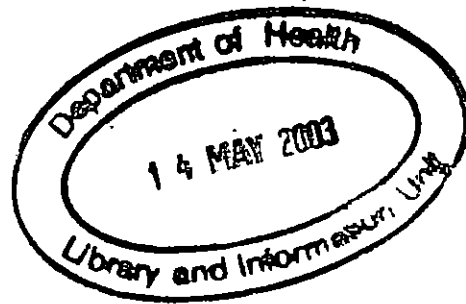
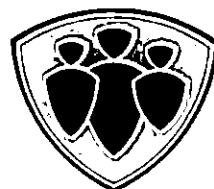


FRIDAY 09<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2003

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**BORD SLÁINTE**  
AN MHEÁN-IARTHAIR



**MID-WESTERN**  
HEALTH BOARD

**To: Chairman & Each Member  
Mid-Western Health Board**

A Chara,

Is mian liom a chur in iúl dhuit go dtionólfar an céad chruinniú eile den mBord sa tSeomra Comhairle, ar De Aoine, 9ú, Bealtine, 2003 ag 11.00r.n. Tá an clár thiosluaite.

I wish to inform you that the next meeting of the Board will be held in **St. Joseph's Hospital in the Social Centre, on Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2003 at 11.00a.m.** The Agenda is set out below. **This meeting will be preceded by a tour of Coovagh House at 10.30 a.m., the meeting point for this tour will be the Social Centre, St. Joseph's Hospital, Mulgrave Street, Limerick.**

Please arrange to attend.

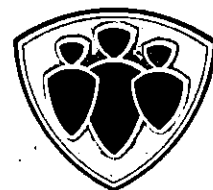
Le dea mhéin,

**S. de Búrca**  
**PRÍOMH OIFIGEACH FEIDHMEACHÁIN**

## AGENDA

1.
  - a. Urnaí Tosáí
  - b. Vote of Sympathy
  - c. Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2003 (herewith)
2. Correspondence
3. Report of the Chief Executive Officer [BUFF]
4. Chief Executive Officer's Overview of Financial Results. [BLUE]  
(Report No. 21/03 herewith)
5. Presentation on Regional Mental Health Services
6. Waiting List Initiative Report [WHITE]  
(Report No 22/03 herewith)
7. Report on Legal Fees [YELLOW]  
(Report No 23/03 herewith)
8. Primary Care/ GP Co-operatives [GREEN]  
(Report No 24/03 herewith)

CENTRAL OFFICES.  
31/33 CATHERINE STREET.  
LIMERICK, IRELAND.  
TEL 00353 (0) 61 316655  
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**MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE  
MID-WESTERN HEALTH BOARD HELD IN THE BOARDROOM,  
31-33 CATHERINE STREET, 11<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2003 AT 11.00A.M**

**MID-WESTERN  
HEALTH BOARD**

CENTRAL OFFICES,  
31/33 CATHERINE STREET,  
LIMERICK, IRELAND.  
TEL 00353 (0) 61 316655  
FAX 00353 (0) 61 483350  
WEBSITE : <http://www.mwhb.ie>

**Presiding/** Cllr. S. Hillery, Chairman

**Present/**

Dr. Y. Begley	Cllr. J. Bourke
Cllr. P. Bugler	Mr. P. Burke
Cllr. R. Butler	Cllr. J. Casey
Cllr. B. Chambers	Cllr. J. Clifford
Dr. D. Clinch	Sen. N. Coonan
Cllr. P. Daly	Cllr. J. Egan
Ms. N. Fitzpatrick	Cllr./Dr. J. Hennessy
Cllr. M. Hourigan	Ms. A. Kenny-Ryan
Ms. S. Marsh	Cllr. J. Meagher
Dr. J. Mullane	Dr. P. McKenna
Ms. M. O'Donnell	Mr. L. MacNamara
Dep. J. O'Sullivan	Dr. J. O'Riordan
Cllr. K. Sheahan	

**Apologies/** Ms. M. Hogan Mr. D. McAvinchey

**In Attendance/**

Mr. S. deBurca, Chief Executive Officer  
Mr. G. Crowley, Assistant Chief Executive Officer  
Mr. J. O' Brien, Assistant Chief Executive Officer  
Mr. J. Conway, Assistant Chief Executive Officer  
Dr. K. Kelleher, Director of Public Health  
Mr. J. O'Grady, Regional Manager  
Mr. G. O'Mahony, Financial Controller  
Mr. P. Brosnan, A/ Regional Co-Coordinator for Planning and  
Development for Mental Health.  
Mr. P.A. Sheehan, General Manager  
Ms. T. Fitzgerald, Staff Officer  
Ms. O. Hartigan, Assistant Staff Officer

**1(a) Urnai Tosai**

**1(b) Vote of Sympathy** A vote of sympathy was extended to staff who had suffered recent bereavements.

1(b) (i) The Board Members extended their best wishes to Mr. T. Hourigan, who is in hospital.

1(c) Minutes Minutes of meeting of the Board on the 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2003, were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. B. Chambers, seconded by Dep. J. O' Sullivan.

2. Correspondence CEO informed Members that correspondence had been received from a Consultant in Genitourinary Medicine, St. James Hospital advising that effective from 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2003, services to HIV patients outside the South Dublin area would not be provided. The CEO was joined by the Members in voicing concern at the unilateral withdrawal of nation-wide services. This matter will be taken up with the Department of Health and Children and the Hospital.

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3. CEO's Report The Chief Executive Officer briefed the Members on the following:

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**Private Hospital**

The CEO advised Members that the Bons Secours and BUPA are meeting in the next week and will convey their final decision following this meeting.

**Adult Cystic Fibrosis Service**

Capital improvements at the Mid-Western Regional Hospital have been agreed and are proceeding with the aid of Voluntary funds, and it is expected that work will be completed in June, 2003. Additional service enhancements were put in place in 2002. However, additional funds to enhance services have not been received for 2003.

Cllr. K. Sheahan welcomed the Capital Improvements.

**Symptomatic Breast Disease/ Breast Screening**

Following a proposal at the March meeting

of the Board, senior clinical personnel examined the possibility of providing a mammography service at Nenagh General Hospital, with a remote link to the Radiology Department at the Mid-Western Regional Hospital. The CEO informed members that while such a link is technically possible, the relatively small number of patients would be insufficient for practitioners to maintain their skill-base. In the period from Sept. '02 – Feb. '03 there were 109 symptomatic and 20 non-symptomatic referrals, from North Tipperary to the Centre of Excellence in Limerick.

The Board Members, while welcoming the extension of Breast Check expressed concern about the time-frame and the proposed referrals to Cork and Galway, thus by-passing Limerick.

#### **Board Meeting the 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2003**

Cllr. K. Sheahan proposed that the May Board meeting be held in Coovagh House the new child care facility. This proposal was seconded by Ms. M. O' Donnell. A map of the site including directions will be forwarded to Board Members.

#### **Nomination to the Association of Health Boards**

Following the vacancy, which occurred due to the resignation of Dep. J. Cregan, Cllr. J. Meagher was nominated on the proposal of Cllr. J. Bourke, seconded by Cllr. K. Sheahan.

#### **SARS**

The CEO informed the members that a document on SARS had been circulated for information.

#### **Accreditation**

The CEO informed the Board Members that the Irish Health Services Accreditation Board has accepted an application from the

Mid-Western Health Board to implement the hospital accreditation scheme to the five Acute Hospitals in the Mid-West Region. Cllr/Dr. J. Hennessy welcomed this news particularly in relation to the smaller hospitals.

#### **Deputation**

The Deputation from the Mid-Western Health Board is due to meet the Minister for Health and Children on the 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2003.

#### **Public Health Doctors – Industrial Dispute**

The CEO informed Members that while there has been national engagement between the HSEA and the IMO, there has been no resolution and that a national strike takes effect from Monday next.

Mr. G. Crowley indicated that all clinics provided by Public Health Doctors have been cancelled.

#### **4. Report of the CEO's of Financial Results Report No. 14/03**

Report No. 14/03 was noted.

Mr. G. O' Mahony gave a brief overview of the Board's financial position to the end of February, 2003.

#### **Legal Fees**

Dr. Y. Begley expressed concern on the overspend in legal fees. Cllr. P. Bugler requested a report be brought before the Board on this matter.

Ms. N. Fitzpatrick enquired if establishing a dedicated legal department like that in Dublin Corporation would be a cost effective option for this Board. The CEO in reply outlined that such an option had been assessed prior to the legal services procurement process some time ago.

#### **Clinically Driven Costs**

Mr. J. O' Brien, replying to Cllr. P. Bugler's

query regarding the cause of clinical increases, stated that medical inflation has been an increasing trend over the last number of years.

The CEO informed Members that a national group in association with HeBe, is currently involved in a project which will as part of its remit be looking at such costs.

#### **Employment**

The CEO responding to Sen. N. Coonan's query if posts were deliberately being left vacant, stated that traditionally problems centred on the recruitment of certain grades. He informed members that the Board has to stay within the employment ceiling set out by the Department of Health and Children.

**5. Overview of Services – North Tipperary - Continuation Report No. 9/03**

The Members thanked the CEO and Chairperson for the opportunity to continue discussions on this report.

In response to Sen. N. Coonan, the CEO reaffirmed the Board's commitment to Nenagh General Hospital.

In response to a query from Sen. N. Coonan in relation to Speech and Language Therapy Services in North Tipperary, Mr. G. Crowley outlined that progress was being made on this issue. Cllr. J. Casey welcomed this news.

A number of members expressed their concern over the following issues: Housing Aid for the Elderly, Psychiatric Services, the Health Centre in Roscrea, and the use of the building purchased in Borrisokane.

**6. Irish Psychiatric Services – Activities 2001 Report by the Health Research Board**

Report No. 15/03 was noted. A discussion followed to which a number of members contributed. Concern was expressed over the provision of Psychiatric Services in Nenagh, the closure of St. Joseph's Hospital, Child Care facilities and alcohol

- Report No. 15/03** related illnesses.
7. **Food Safety Authority of Ireland 2001 Annual Report 24-7-365 Report No. 16/03** Report No. 16/03 was noted.
8. **Overview of Drug Issues in Ireland 2000 Report No. 17/03** Report No. 17/03 was noted.
9. **Child Care Advisory Committee - Vacancy Report No. 18/03** Ms. Mary Liston, Director of Public Health and Ms. Fiona McDonnell, Pre School Services Officer were proposed by Cllr. S. Marsh and seconded by Cllr. J. Meagher, to fill existing vacancies.
10. **Purchase of Property at Dromin Road, Nenagh Report No. 19/03** The Board adopted Report No. 19/03 on the proposal of Cllr. J. Bourke, seconded by Sen. N. Coonan.
11. **Report on Oral and Maxillofacial Services Report No. 20/03** The Board adopted Report No. 20/03 on the proposal of Cllr. J. Bourke, seconded by Cllr. S. Marsh.  
The Board Members and the Executive acknowledged the outstanding work done by Mr. G. Kearns and his team in providing the service to the people of the Mid-West.
12. **Notice of Motions**
- a. **Notice of Motion Submitted by: Cllr. B. Chambers:** "That the Mid-Western Health Board seeks funding from the Department of Health and Children for the provision of a Specialist Ambulance for West Clare to be based in Kilrush"
- Cllr. B. Chambers agreed that the motion would be deferred until a future Board Meeting.



- b. **Notice of Motion Submitted by Dr. D. Clinch:** "That this Health Board expressed its serious concern at the failure of follow through on the planned provision of a third geriatrician for the Mid-West Regional Hospital.  
Given the likely consequences of this delay for the functioning of the Regional Hospital, as well as the impact on its links with its associated hospitals, the Health Board Executive is requested to urgently arrange specific negotiations with a view to the third geriatrician in place before Winter 2003/2004."

Dr. Clinch outlined the background to the f Motion. A discussion followed to which a number of Members contributed.

The Motion was adopted on the proposal of Cllr. J. Bourke, seconded by Ms. A. Kenny-Ryan.

**Signed/**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Cllr. S. Hillery, Chairman**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**S. deBúrca, Chief Executive Officer**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**



**MID-WESTERN**  
HEALTH BOARD

28/4/03

**To: Chairman & Each Member  
Mid-Western Health Board**

**Item No 3 on Agenda**

**Report for Meeting of the Board to be held on Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2003**

**Report of the Chief Executive Officer**

Dear Member,

I propose to brief you on the following items at our forthcoming meeting:-

- Private Hospital
- Public Health Doctors - Industrial Dispute
- Deputation to the Minister for Health and Children
- Any Other Business

Yours sincerely,

**S. deBúrca**  
**Priomh Oifigeach Feidhmeacháin**



**MID-WESTERN  
HEALTH BOARD**

24<sup>th</sup> April 2003

To: Chairman & Each Member  
Mid-Western Health Board

Report No:  
Item No 4 on Agenda

**Report of the Meeting of the Board to be held on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2003**

**Chief Executive Officer's Overview of Financial Results**

Dear Member,

**1. Introduction**

The Board recorded a adverse variance against budget for March 2003 of (€94k). Year to date the Board is overspent by (€392k).

**2. Outturn to end March 03**

The outturn to the end of March is summarised as follows:

	<b>Current Month Variance €'000</b>	<b>Year to Date Variance €'000</b>
Pay	136	661
Non-Pay	-640	-2,135
Income	410	1,082
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>-94</b>	<b>-392</b>

**3. General Commentary**

**3(i) Pay Expenditure**

Pay is underspent in the current month by €136k and €661k year to date due to non filling of posts. The main positive variances occurred in the following care groups, while a negative variance was recorded in the Acutes.

	<b>Current Month Variance €'000</b>	<b>Year to Date Variance €'000</b>
Acutes	-102	-248
Elderly Care	67	286
Mental Health	-25	160
Community Care	194	365
Central Services	5	97

Further details are set out in the program analysis.

### 3 (ii) Non Pay Expenditure

Non Pay expenditure is overspent in the current month by (€640k) and (€2.1m) year to date. The main negative variances recorded were:

	<b>Current Month Variance €'000</b>	<b>Year to Date Variance €'000</b>
Non Pay by Caregroup		
Acutes	230	563
Elderly Care	41	401
Mental Health	-17	72
Community Care	695	2,037
Central Services	-321	-949

	<b>Current Month Variance €'000</b>	<b>Year to Date Variance €'000</b>
Non Pay by Category		
Demand Led Schemes	161	658
Clinical Costs	33	725
Legal Fees	112	313
Capitation Fees	-14	484
Maintenance	385	446
Energy	56	174
Education & Training	156	245

The emerging trends in non pay expenditure are as anticipated and are associated with the main demand led cost drivers. Working groups have been established in respect of each of the schemes, however considerable difficulty is expected to keep within the allocation

### Travel & Subsistence.

Arrears due in respect of DOHC circular 8/2003 & 07/2002 to end of March amount to € 1.1m but are not included in the figures above.

## Valuation Act (2001)

Demands for rates amounting to €280k in respect of certain health board properties previously exempted from rates have been received from Limerick City Council. It is intended to lodge appeals where appropriate.

## Income

Income is positive year to date by €1.1m.

	<b>Current Month Variance €'000</b>	<b>Year to Date Variance €'000</b>
Acutes	166	287
Elderly Care	21	247
Mental Health	98	146
Community Care	112	369
Central Services	10	31

## **4. Programme Analysis**

### 4(i) Acute Hospitals

	<b>Current Month Variance €'000</b>	<b>Year to Date Variance €'000</b>
Pay	-102	-248
Non-Pay	-230	-563
Income	166	287
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>-166</b>	<b>-524</b>

## General Commentary

Pay is overspent by €102k in the current month due to arrears to laboratory staff (Mid-Western Regional Hospital), an overrun on WTEs due to leave and the payment of incremental credit at Ennis General Hospital and NCHD overtime and leave cover at Nenagh General Hospital.

Non-pay is overspent by €230k in the current month and €563k year to date. This includes an accrual for tests carried out in 2002 by an external agency (Mid-Western Regional Hospital), purchase of equipment and an increase in contracts at Ennis General Hospital and clinically driven costs at Nenagh General Hospital.

Income is showing a positive variance in the current month at all locations.

## Activity

In-patient activity is under target by 1% with an increase at Nenagh offset by a decrease at the Mid-Western Regional Hospital. Day case activity is under target by 3% with all sites contributing.

Out-patient activity is under target by approximately 6%. This includes decreases in the Ante- Natal, STD, Oral Surgery and Orthopaedic Injury clinics at the Mid-Western Regional Hospital and in general surgery and general medicine at Ennis General Hospital.

Attendances at the A&E Departments has decreased by 13%. All departments have shown a decrease in new patients while review patients have decreased at the Mid-Western Regional Hospital and Nenagh General Hospital.

#### 4 (ii) Special Hospitals (Mental Health & Elderly)

	<b>Current Month Variance €'000</b>	<b>Year to Date Variance €'000</b>
Pay	42	446
Non-Pay	-25	-473
Income	119	393
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>367</b>

Pay is underspent in the current month by €46k and underspent by €446k year to date, this favourable variance is due to vacant posts.

Non Pay is overspent by (€473k) year to date.

Income is €393k positive year to date.

#### Activity

Activity levels are generally consistent with service plan targets.

#### 4 (iii) Community Care (Primary Care, Disabilities, Child Care & Community Services)

	<b>Current Month Variance €'000</b>	<b>Year to Date Variance €'000</b>
Pay	194	365
Non-Pay	-695	-2037
Income	112	369
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>-389</b>	<b>-1303</b>

Pay underspent by €194k in the current month and underspent €365k year to date due to vacant posts.

Non Pay overspent by (€695k) in the current month and overspent by (€2.0m) year to date. The year to date negative variance is mainly due to overspends in relation to Capitation Payments and Drugs Refund Scheme.

The overspend in capitation will be addressed by an increased allocation of 1.4m Euro to cover the period April to December 03.

Income is €369k positive year to date.

### Activity

Activity is broadly in line with service plan targets, with some difficulties in therapy areas due to unfilled posts.

### Central Services

Pay is underspent by €97k year to date.

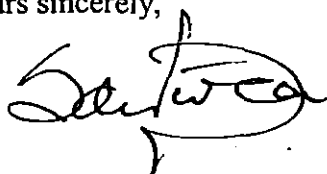
Non Pay is underspent €949k year to date.

Income is positive by €30k year to date.

### Employment Levels

The March WTE return is 6,500 and the ceiling is 6,591. A number of issues regarding the board's employment ceiling has been raised with the DOHC.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. de Burca', written in a cursive style.

**S. de Burca.**

**Priomb Oifigeach Féidhmeacháin.**

**MID-WESTERN HEALTH BOARD**

**Summary of Financial Results**

**March 2003**

	Acute Hospitals	Mental Health	Elderly Care	Disabilities Care Group	Child Care Group	Community Services	Central Services	Ambulance Services	Total
	Euro '000's	Euro '000's	Euro '000's	Euro '000's	Euro '000's	Euro '000's	Euro '000's	Euro '000's	Euro '000's

**PAY**

Budget	33,265	10,856	9,857	1,429	2,766	8,213	2,735	1,436	70,558
Actual	33,514	10,695	9,570	1,272	2,608	8,221	2,637	1,377	69,895
Variance	(248)	161	287	50	158	(8)	98	59	556
Variance -% to Budget	(0.75)	1.48	2.91	3.47	5.70	(0.10)	3.58	4.12	0.79

Annual Budget	137,413	46,154	40,809	6,113	11,779	33,654	10,438	5,838	292,198
% Annual budget consumed	24.39	23.17	23.45	20.81	22.14	24.43	25.26	23.58	23.92

**NON-PAY**

Budget	12,490	1,553	1,681	16,864	4,106	15,490	3,249	406	55,839
Actual	13,054	1,626	2,082	16,999	4,920	16,519	2,299	466	57,965
Variance	(564)	(72)	(402)	(136)	(814)	(1,029)	949	(60)	(2,126)
Variance -% to Budget	(4.51)	(4.64)	(23.90)	(0.80)	(19.82)	(6.64)	29.23	(14.69)	(3.81)

Annual Budget	59,479	7,550	7,740	73,185	21,586	72,493	18,623	1,604	262,259
% Annual budget consumed	21.95	21.53	26.90	23.23	22.79	22.79	12.34	29.03	22.10

**GROSS EXPENDITURE**

Budget	45,756	12,409	11,538	18,293	6,872	23,703	5,983	1,842	126,397
Actual	46,568	12,321	11,653	18,272	7,528	24,740	4,936	1,842	127,860
Variance	(812)	88	(115)	22	(656)	(1,037)	1,047	(1)	(1,463)
Variance -% to Budget	(1.78)	0.71	(0.99)	0.12	(9.55)	(4.37)	17.51	(0.03)	(1.16)

Annual Budget	196,891	53,704	48,550	79,297	33,365	106,146	29,062	7,442	554,457
% Annual budget consumed	23.65	22.94	24.00	23.04	22.56	23.31	16.98	24.76	23.06

**INCOME**

Budget	5,955	798	1,743	229	72	404	242	52	9,496
Actual	6,243	944	1,991	239	252	584	273	52	10,578
Variance	288	146	248	9	180	180	31	0	1,082
Variance -% to Budget	4.83	18.36	14.22	4.02	251.72	44.49	12.75	0.40	11.40

Annual Budget	23,870	3,228	7,048	1,338	290	1,638	946	210	38,567
% Annual budget consumed	26.15	29.24	28.25	17.84	86.77	35.67	28.88	24.77	27.43

**NET EXPENDITURE**

Budget	39,800	11,612	9,795	18,064	6,801	23,299	5,741	1,790	116,902
Actual	40,325	11,377	9,662	18,033	7,276	24,156	4,663	1,790	117,283
Variance	(525)	235	133	31	(476)	(857)	1,078	(0)	(381)
Variance -% to Budget	(1.32)	2.02	1.36	0.17	(7.00)	(3.68)	18.78	(0.02)	(0.33)

Annual Budget	173,022	50,477	41,502	77,960	33,075	104,508	28,116	7,232	515,890
% Annual budget consumed	23.31	22.54	23.28	23.13	22.00	23.11	16.58	24.76	22.73

**Superannuation Variance**

(incl in Pay above)	76	(5)	17	26	4	10	16	3	148
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Note: 2 months is 25%



Acute Hospital Care  
31/33 Catherine Street



Tel: 061 483302  
Fax: 061 483211

**MID-WESTERN**  
HEALTH BOARD

**To:** Chairman & Each Member  
of the Mid-Western Health Board

Report No: *22/03*  
Item No on Agenda

**For Meeting of the Board to be held on Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> May 2003**

<b>Waiting List Initiative Report March 2003</b>
--

Dear Member,

The Waiting List Initiative for the year 2003 is scheduled to provide further reductions in the number of patients on the Inpatient Waiting Lists and a reduction in the average waiting times in targeted specialities.

The funding allocated to the Initiative for 2003 is €2.4 million and targets for the year involve a total of 1,150 procedures under the initiative and a further 150 procedures under the National Treatment Purchase Fund. Additional funding may be allocated at a later stage depending on performance.

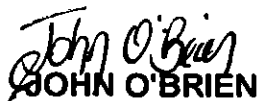
A reduction in the inpatient lists of 8% was achieved in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2003 and the target for this year is an overall reduction of 20%. Details of activity in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2003 are outlined in the attached tables.

The introduction of the National Treatment Purchase Fund has provided a further option for patients on waiting lists and a summary of activity under this scheme is also presented.

The Waiting List Initiative and the NTPF will be used to meet targets set out in the National Health Strategy in the current year i.e. that no adult will wait longer than 6 months and no child will wait longer than 3 months to commence treatment.

Full details of activity are outlined in the attached tables.

**Signed:**

  
**JOHN O'BRIEN**

**ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

## **Waiting List Report – Mid-Western Health Board - March 2003**

The Waiting List Initiative specifically targets in-patient procedures for public patients in the following specialities: -

- Cardiology
- General Surgery
- ENT
- Gynaecology
- Ophthalmology
- Orthopaedics

An investment of €2.4m has been provided for the Waiting List Initiative in the Mid-Western Health Board for 2003 to fund the additional surgical, anaesthetic, nursing and support staff to deal with the inpatient waiting lists.

### **Waiting List numbers**

266 Waiting List procedures have been carried out in the period Jan to March 2003 at a time of peak demand for acute hospital beds for medical admissions.

This activity has led to an overall reduction of 8% in waiting lists in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter (see tables for details).

### **Waiting Times**

The waiting time for treatment is a key measure of access to services. Waiting times were reduced significantly in the target specialties of General surgery, ENT and Gynaecology in 2002, with the average median waiting times for ENT surgery now at 23 weeks and the waiting time for a Gynaecology procedure at 3 weeks.

The target waiting times for treatment in the designated specialties in 2003 are set at less than 6 months for adults and less than 3 months for children. Tables 2 and 3 provide an outline of the nature of the challenge ahead for the coming year. It is intended to achieve the waiting times indicated through targeted activity in the key specialties in house and increased activity under the National Treatment Purchase Fund. Referrals to outside hospitals are continuing where we have internal capacity problems.

However, work under this fund within the Board's own hospital is scheduled to commence in May 2003 commencing with children's' eye procedures and the Maxillofacial day-case list.

**Table 1: Inpatient Waiting Lists (Adult and Children) for Period from January 2001 – March 2003**

Speciality	Waiting Lists January 2001	Waiting Lists January 2002	Waiting Lists JAN 2003	Waiting Lists March 2003
Cardiology	1	0	0	0
General Surgery	24	14	36	35
ENT	109	84	22	31
Gynaecology	24	24	6	6
Ophthalmology	343	264	275	236
Orthopaedics	183	98	70	66
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>684</b>	<b>484</b>	<b>409</b>	<b>374</b>

**Table 2: Waiting Times for (Adult) Inpatient Surgery from January 2002 – March 2003**

Speciality	January 2002		January 2003		March 2003	
	<-12mths	>-12mths	<-12mths	>-12mths	<-6mths	>-6mths
Cardiology	0	0	0	0	0	0
General Surgery	8	6	36	0	17	18
ENT	66	18	22	0	10	11
Gynaecology	19	5	6	0	5	1
Ophthalmology	221	43	207	68*	84	118
Orthopaedics	58	40	55	15	7	59
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>207*</b>

\* Note: Patients waiting over 6 months are being targeted for treatment under the Waiting List Initiative or the National Treatment Purchase Fund to ensure that the Health Strategy waiting time targets are achieved by end of year.

**Table 3: Waiting Times for (Children) Inpatient Surgery from January 2002 – March 2003**

SPECIALTY	3 – 6 MONTHS		> 6 MONTHS	
	PUBLIC	PRIVATE	PUBLIC	PRIVATE
<b>(1) Cardiac Surgery</b>				
<i>Open heart surgery</i>				
<i>Other Surgery</i>				
<b>Total</b>				
<b>(2) E.N.T.</b>				
<i>Tonsils/Adenoids</i>	8	0	2	0
<i>Grommets</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Other Procedures</i>	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>(3) Ophthalmology</b>				

All Procedures	5	0	29	0
Total	5	0	29	0
<b>(4) Plastic Surgery</b>				
All Procedures				
Total				
<b>(5) Other*</b>				
Total	13	0	31	0

**Table 4: Day Case Waiting Lists December 2001 – March 2003**

Speciality	Waiting Lists Jan 2002	Waiting Lists Jan 2003	Waiting List March 2003
Cardiology	55	47	47
ENT	14	32	51
General Surgery	89	100	174
G.I. Surgery	2	10	21
Vascular Surgery	5	6	8
Urology	52	74	97
Ophthalmology	94	102	99
Maxillo Facial	343	384	402
Dental	2	56	72
<b>Total</b>	<b>656</b>	<b>811</b>	<b>971*</b>

\* This list is currently undergoing validation.

## **National Treatment Purchase Fund**

### **Activity to 31\3\2003**

Since October 2002, a total of **154** waiting list patients in the Mid-Western Health Board area have been offered treatment under the Initiative to date.

**64** patients have declined the offer of treatment and the main reasons for refusal are;

- to far to travel for patients
- wish to remain of the Ophthalmology Waiting List at the Mid-Western Regional Hospital.

Some patients have been difficult to contact by phone and written notification regarding the Initiative has been sent to these patients and contact with the patient's General Practitioner or the Public Health Nurse informing them of the proposed treatment.

**Table 5: Activity under NTPF 31<sup>st</sup> March 2003**

<b>Progress</b>	<b>Numbers</b>
Total Number of Patients offered treatment.	<b>154</b>
Number of Patients successfully treated to 31 <sup>st</sup> March.	<b>51</b>
Number of Patients agreeing to be treated and given date for treatment.	<b>0</b>
Number of Patients who have received information on the NTPF and considering treatment.	<b>39</b>
Number of Patients Refused Treatment Reasons for Refusal include; Elderly and unwilling to travel. Rather remain on the MWRH Waiting Lists.	<b>64</b>

Activity under this initiative is continuing in 2003 and extension to Day Case procedures is proceeding from May 2003, including NTPF work at the Mid-Western Regional Hospital.

## **Orthodontics**

### **Current Waiting Lists for 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2003**

Patients waiting for treatment - 879 (was 837 at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2002)

Patients waiting for assessment - 1,659 (was 3,326 at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2002)

Average Waiting Time is 2 years for each list.

The Board received an additional €0.451k in 2002 for the purchase of orthodontic treatment under the National Treatment Purchase Fund and has entered into negotiations with private contractors for the provision of such services. There is a limit of €2,920, for any one case, which is subject to capacity in the private sector to respond. Private contractors have commenced treating 176 patients.

The recruitment of additional staff is also being pursued to speed up progress on these lists.



Tel:  
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**MID-WESTERN**  
HEALTH BOARD

24<sup>th</sup> April 2003

To: Chairman & Each Member  
Mid-Western Health Board

Report No: 23/03  
Item No 7 on Agenda

**Report for Meeting of the Board to be held on Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2003.**

**Report on Legal Services Expenditure**

Dear Member,

Legal expenditure arises from a variety of aspects of the Health Board's operations, for example:- Conveyancing, Procurement/Contract Law, Debt Recovery, Employment and Environmental Health matters and increasingly in relation to service areas such as Child Care and Disabilities.

The attached table details the increase in expenditure on legal services from 1997 to 2002.

Year	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total	€.302m	€.327m	€.574m	€.899m	€1.225m	€2.240m

The most significant increase in expenditure is in respect of the Child Care Services and the attached table details the increase.

Child Care	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total	€.305m	€.554m	€.750m	€1.240m

The issues in care groups that have contributed to increased expenditure are:-

*Child Care*

- Requirements under the Child Care Act
- High Court Activity - Detention Orders, Judicial Reviews
- Adoption Act (1988) - Applications to the High Court

*Disabilities*

- Individual cases concerning the provision of services for children with disabilities

In May 2002, the Board signed a five-year contract with a firm of solicitors for the provision of legal services. The contract was awarded following an open competitive process and includes an agreed fee structure for service provision. The law agents work in conjunction with the Board's insurers (Irish Public Bodies) and the State Claims Agency (clinical negligence) in dealing with matters that involve both legal and insurance issues.

Signed *J. McDaniel*  
Director of Finance

31/33 Catherine Street,  
Limerick



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**MID-WESTERN**  
HEALTH BOARD

28/4/03

**To: Chairman & Each Member  
Mid-Western Health Board**

**Report No: 24/03  
Item No 8 on Agenda**

**Report for Meeting of the Board to be held on Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2003**

**Implementation of General Practitioner Co-operative  
Out-of-Hours arrangements.**

Dear Member,

The Department of Health has informed the Board that an amount of €734,237 is being made available in 2003 in respect of the expansion of General Practitioner co-operative out-of-hours arrangements.

This allocation includes a once-off capital amount of €139,475. This amount is being provided to enable an expansion of the services provided by Shannodoc Co-operative in partnership with the Health Board to the Limerick area.

Previous reports to the Board outlined the developments of the G.P. co-operative out-of-hours arrangements in County Clare and North Tipperary. The Health Board submitted a comprehensive proposal to the Department of Health for resources amounting to €1.296m for the roll-out of the service to Limerick City and County. The funding that has been provided will enable a very significant expansion of the existing service. Discussions are currently underway with Shannodoc to agree the details of the expansion programme for the Limerick area in 2003.

Shannodoc Ltd. was formally launched in November, 2001 to provide out-of-hours family doctor services to patients in the Mid-West region. The Board of Shannodoc consists of G.P. Directors drawn from the three catchment areas of the Board and Shannodoc represents the majority of General Practitioners in the region.

Services were developed in Clare with effect from June, 2002 and in North Tipperary from October, 2002.

A regional Central Call Centre has been developed at St. Camillus' Hospital, Limerick which will have a capacity to service the region and work is under way in developing the necessary infrastructure to allow for expansion into the Limerick area.



The general public access the out-of-hours through a low-cost telephone number to the central call centre. Calls are initially logged on the computerised patient call management system. Calls are then transferred as appropriate to a member of the Nurse Triage team on duty. The Triage Nurse provides an advice service and/or arranges for the patients to be seen by a Doctor on duty. To date a significant proportion of enquiries are resolved satisfactorily by the Triage Nurses and do not require further intervention by the Doctors. The Calls Centre, where necessary, directs calls to available doctors at out-of-hours treatment centres located strategically throughout the region. The call management system records and tracks all patients' calls.

For the purposes of organising out-of-hours arrangements, the region is divided into four operating zones, namely Clare, North Tipperary, Limerick County (rural) and Limerick City (Urban). The operating zones of Clare and North Tipperary are subdivided into the following operating cells.

**Clare**

**Operating Cells**      **Treatment Centres**

North/West Clare	Ennistymon
	Kilrush
	Miltown Malbay
Mid/South Clare	Ennis
	Shannon

**North Tipperary**

**Operating Cells**      **Treatment Centres**

Thurles	Thurles
Nenagh	Nenagh
Roscrea	Roscrea

The following is a breakdown of activity over the period from June, 2002 to April, 2003.

**Calls per Duty Station:**

Clare	Ennis	6,315	23%
	Ennistymon	2,488	9%
	Kilrush	2,419	8.5%
	Miltown Malbay	398	1%
	Shannon	3,124	11%
North Tipperary	Nenagh	3,258	12%
	Roscrea	2,519	9%
	Thurles	2,468	8.5%
Central Call Centre	Call Centre	5,055	18%
<b>Total</b>		<b>28,044</b>	

The following is a breakdown of activity over the period from June, 2002 to April, 2003.

<u>Call Type</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Nurse Triage	5,008	17.85%
Call Answering	47	0.16%
Doctor Advice	2,835	10.10%
Treatment Centre	17,066	60.85%
Home Visits	3,088	11.04%
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,044</b>	

The existing service in Clare and North Tipperary is being monitored by the Board in consultation with Shannondoc to ensure effective implementation and delivery of service. The results of recent patient satisfaction surveys carried out indicate the high level of satisfaction among patients with the out-of hours arrangements. Outlined below are the results of a random survey of persons making contact with the service.

**Patient Satisfaction:**

	<b>Sent</b>	<b>Returned</b>	<b>% Returned</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Satisfactory</b>	<b>Poor</b>
Clare	98	46	46.9%	36	9	3	1
July '02				76.6%	19.1%	6.4%	2.1%
Clare	118	54	45.8%	37	12	3	2
Aug '02				78.7%	25.5%	6.4%	4.3%
Clare	112	47	42.0%	32	12	3	0
Dec '02				68.1%	25.5%	6.4%	0.0%
Tipperary	91	33	36.3%	22	8	2	1
Dec '02				66.7%	24.2%	6.1%	3.0%
Clare	97	50	51.5%	39	9	2	0
Jan '03				78.0%	18.0%	4.0%	0.0%
Tipperary	99	41	41.4%	30	8	2	1
Jan '03				73.2%	19.5%	4.9%	2.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>44.1%</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>5</b>
				72.3%	21.4%	5.5%	1.8%

This allocation and will enable a significant expansion of the service to the Limerick area.

Further reports will be presented to the Board, as the service develops.

Yours sincerely

*G. Crowley*  
**G. CROWLEY**

**ASST CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER.**



**MID-WESTERN**  
HEALTH BOARD

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