



# NEWSLETTER

## For Elected Representatives

# Orthopaedic Services

We recognise that many of your constituents are unfortunately waiting for surgery.

Here Martyn Neil, Orthopaedic Consultant and Clinical Director tells us about what we're doing to reduce waiting lists.



Martyn Neil

He said "In Musgrave Park, we have come out of Covid. We have increased our theatre sessions from only a couple of theatre sessions a week to our pre-Covid levels of activity, and beyond that."

"We are now able to address the waiting lists. So patients who have been waiting for their operations in pain, are now getting the surgery they need."

*Watch the full video below...*



As of January 2023, Musgrave Park Hospital returned to operating at its full theatre capacity.

That's 73 theatre sessions per week - with an average of two surgeries per session!

Includes up to 8 trauma sessions.

*Our team at Musgrave won a High Performance Award for post-Covid service rebuild!*



Increased surgical sessions from 4 per week to more than 73



Filled 40 staff vacancies



Cut waiting times for carpal tunnel surgery



# New... Duke of Connaught Unit

The new the Duke of Connaught Unit is located within the Trust's Musgrave Park Hospital and was opened by former Health Minister, Robin Swann in October 2022. It provides a new streamlined day-case pathway for the treatment of orthopaedic patients. It frees up capacity for the treatment of more complex cases requiring major orthopaedic surgery at the main Musgrave Park Hospital theatres.

Refurbishment of the Duke of Connaught Unit cost £800,000 and the Department of Health will invest £500,000 per year to support the unit's services. The remedial work was undertaken by our Estates Department who worked in partnership with the Orthopaedics Team to deliver a leading edge facility.

The new unit also has two procedure rooms, which can be used for diagnostic and therapeutic image-guided injections and WALANT (Wide Awake, Local Anaesthetic, No Tourniquet) cases. This allows patients to be treated in a walk-in, walk-out fashion, without needing an overnight stay in hospital.

## Vacancies

Orthopaedics Service Manager, Michelle Powney, said, "With the Covid Pandemic and the downturn in elective orthopaedic services, we lost a large amount of our skilled, experienced theatre staff. We had vacancies in March 2022 for 40 full-time theatre nurses."



**Michelle Powney**

"In order to rebuild our services, we had to have a bespoke recruitment programme with recruitment from three avenues: our International Nurse Recruitment Strategy, BSO Recruitment, and internal transfer."

She added, "We now have names against all vacancies. We meet regularly with our staff, listening to different ways of working: How can we improve things for our patients and our staff, and now we're looking at the future developments of orthopaedic services."



**If your constituent feels their condition has deteriorated, they should contact their GP, who will update the Trust.**



## In other news...

### First gallbladder surgery in the new Surgical Overnight Stay Centre

Mr David Vass and the Mater Hospital theatre team completed the first gallbladder surgery in the new Surgical Overnight Stay Centre.

This marks a milestone for general surgery and a new chapter at the Mater Hospital.

