

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
BY SENATOR K.L. MOORE
QUESTION SUBMITTED ON TUESDAY 19th APRIL 2022
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 26th APRIL 2022**

Question

“Will the Minister advise the Assembly of the cost of using rheumatology locums over the last year, and of the number of patients seen in the Rheumatology Department per week during the same period?”

Answer

In the last year, since April 2021, there has been 1 locum in the Rheumatology Department who started on 14 February 2022. The total cost to the end of March was £44,500.

The table below shows the count of unique patients attending a Rheumatology outpatient appointment per week and the total count of appointments attended per week.

Date Range: 5th April 2021 – 27th March 2022

Week Commencing*	Patient Count	Appointments Attended Count
05/04/2021*	68	75
12/04/2021	58	66
19/04/2021	68	75
26/04/2021	76	86
03/05/2021*	43	46
10/05/2021	89	96
17/05/2021	70	80
24/05/2021	52	59
31/05/2021*	56	61
07/06/2021	42	45
14/06/2021	55	59
21/06/2021	71	83
28/06/2021	43	48
05/07/2021	40	42
12/07/2021	47	53
19/07/2021	76	78
26/07/2021	64	68
02/08/2021	40	43
09/08/2021	66	69
16/08/2021	66	68
23/08/2021	33	38
30/08/2021*	64	66
06/09/2021	76	83
13/09/2021	56	63
20/09/2021	54	65
27/09/2021*	46	50

04/10/2021	66	70
11/10/2021	64	73
18/10/2021	76	86
25/10/2021	84	91
01/11/2021	67	73
08/11/2021	47	51
15/11/2021	40	46
22/11/2021	62	73
29/11/2021	74	83
06/12/2021	87	90
13/12/2021	45	48
20/12/2021	36	38
27/12/2021*	35	36
03/01/2022*	71	72
10/01/2022	61	66
17/01/2022	85	89
24/01/2022	54	60
31/01/2022	74	85
07/02/2022	83	89
14/02/2022	146	153
21/02/2022	143	151
28/02/2022	130	136
07/03/2022	140	150
14/03/2022	123	132
21/03/2022	136	148

Data Source: Hospital Patient Administration System (TrakCare, Report BKG1A)

*Indicates this was not a full working week.

The table below shows the average, minimum and maximum number of appointments attended per week over the period.

Average Weekly Appointment Count	Minimum Weekly Appointment Count	Maximum Weekly Appointment Count
76	36	153

Data Source: Hospital Patient Administration System (TrakCare, Report BKG1A)