

# More than 400 patients on ENT wait lists

By James Fogarty

There are currently 404 patients on Roscommon University Hospital's ear, nose, and throat waiting list, a HSE West Regional Health Forum was told last week.

The figures show that there are 110 children on the list, 18 of whom are waiting more than 12 months, with five waiting more than 15 months or more. In terms of the adults, there are 46 waiting more than a year. While 23 of these are waiting 15 months or more, 18 of these adults have already been outsourced to private hospitals for treatment.

The HSE said it is planning to outsource a further 20-30 patients before the end of the year. In some cases, patients may decline an offer of outsourcing, in which case they remain on the

hospital waiting list.

Cllr Sean Moylan, who sought the information, asked what the local HSE was doing to improve the situation.

Cllr Moylan noted that a couple of specific cases had been brought to his attention, one of which involved a person waiting for upwards of three and a half years.

Integrated health area manager, Galway Roscommon, Ann Cosgrove asked for the details of the case and said she would revert to Cllr Moylan.

"The service in Roscommon is delivered from Galway, it's a visiting service so it's not as frequent as if it were based in Roscommon," she said.

The HSE said it has also held 'initiative clinics' to help clear the backlog, with another scheduled for December 13th. Each initiative

clinic allows the consultant and registrar to see approximately 50 patients.

"As part of an initiative clinic, we have an audiologist using the Primary Care Audiology Department, where approximately 20 patients are assessed for audiology and subsequently reviewed by the consultant on the same day," the HSE said.

"We intend to continue running additional initiative clinics in the New Year. These clinics play a vital role in reducing the waiting list, as they provide additional capacity to see patients who might otherwise experience delays." It added that the consultant's core HSE clinic time is primarily allocated to urgent and complex cases, "including potential cancer patients, ensuring that those with the greatest clinical need are prioritised appropriately".

# Social enterprise award for CycleUp

Roscommon Women's Network's up-cycling social enterprise, CycleUp Textiles, has been presented with a national award. CycleUp won the Climate and the Environment category of the inaugural National Social Enterprise Awards.

CycleUp Textiles began as a small group of volunteers from the Roscommon Women's Network charity shop in Castlereagh who were concerned about the amount of textile waste generated from unused clothing.

Determined to make a difference, they began up-cycling these textiles into new, sustainable products — an initiative that has since grown into a thriving social enterprise based in Athleague, employing a team of nine staff and six Community Employment participants.

Since its inception, RWN CycleUp has diverted over eight tonnes of textiles from landfill through creative reuse and upcycling.

The enterprise also provides up-skilling for employment in the new circular economy including in sewing, repair and sustainable design to individuals across Roscommon and the west of Ireland.

Representing CycleUp at the awards were Aisling Owens (business development lead), Maria Hourigan (product creator), and Ahmad Abo Haileh (product creator), who proudly accepted the award on behalf of the team.

"This award is a huge recognition of the creativity, dedication, environmental and social impact of the RWN Commu-



Aisling Owens accepting the award on behalf of CycleUp at the inaugural National Social Enterprise Awards.



Aisling Owens, Maria Hourigan, and Abo Haileh Ahmad representing CycleUp at the inaugural National Social Enterprise Awards.

nity Development Project team, board and community," said Aisling. "It highlights how a local

initiative in rural Ireland can make a real difference on a national level." For more information

about CycleUp Textiles and Roscommon Women's Network, visit [cycleup.ie](http://cycleup.ie) and [rwn.ie](http://rwn.ie)



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# Possibility of further columbarium walls for county

Several locations for columbarium walls may be considered in the county, councillors were told at the recent local authority budget meeting.

Roscommon County Council has started a consultation period for the installation of a columbarium wall and reflection area at St Coman's Cemetery, Ardsallagh Beg, Roscommon Town, and this was mentioned at the meeting.

Councillor Leah Cull said she believed the wall would be located at Fairy-mount.

In response director of

services Mark Keaveney said it was a pilot project and it was being taken forward at the biggest area of request at the moment.

"We will look at other areas to see how this works out, but at the moment St Comán's Cemetery is the location."

During the meeting councillors welcomed the funding of €90,000 in Voluntary Graveyard Grants for more than 90 separate groups around the county. In addition, funding of €75,000 for emergency repair works in graveyards in 2026 has been set aside.