



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive



Seirbhís Sláinte  
Níos Fearr  
á Forbairt

Building a  
Better Health  
Service

Performance Management  
and Improvement Unit

17<sup>th</sup> December 2019

Deputy Louise O'Reilly  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ 51959/19**

**\* To ask the Minister for Health the number of times a full-capacity protocol was invoked to date in 2019, by hospital in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

- Louise O'Reilly

Dear Deputy O'Reilly,

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. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Each Hospital Site and Group strive at all times to have the systems and processes in place to support the steady state within sites which is said to exist when demand and capacity for acute inpatient care, both current and predicted unscheduled and scheduled care is being managed such that there is timely access to emergency (unscheduled) and scheduled care.

In the event that this is not so at a particular time /day then the local escalation plan containing the steps in the National System Wide Escalation Framework is invoked. The National Escalation Framework consists of a tiered and incremental suite of actions to be adapted and implemented in hospitals with an Emergency Department and the wider local health economy as part of a multi provider system response; same was issued to the system in late 2015.

The full capacity protocol which is the last escalation step in the National Framework is deployed in each hospital depending on the capacity and demand within their respective Emergency Departments.

The Table below details the number of times the full capacity protocol (in accordance with the National Escalation Framework) was reported at each hospital to date (10<sup>th</sup> December 2019) in 2019.

Number of Days in Full Capacity Protocol Escalation in 2019		
Hospital Group	Hospital	No Times
Children's Health Ireland	CHI at Temple St	4
Dublin Midlands Group	Naas General Hospital	226
	Portlaoise	70
	St. James Hospital	4
	Tallaght University Hospital	160
	Tullamore	123
Ireland East Group	Mullingar	57
	Our Lady's Hospital, Navan	95
	St Luke's Hospital, Kilkenny	140
	Wexford General Hospital	57
RCSI Hospital Group	Beaumont Hospital	199
	Cavan General Hospital	8
	Connolly Hospital	9
	Our Lady of Lourdes, Drogheda	68
Saoita University Health Care Group	Galway University Hospital	288
	Letterkenny University Hospital	177
	Mayo University Hospital	15
	Portiuncula University Hospital	140
	Sligo University Hospital	136
South South West Group	Cork University Hospital	297
	Mercy University Hospital, Cork	1
	South Tipperary General Hospital	264
	University Hospital Kerry	2
	University Hospital Waterford	313
UL Hospitals Group	Limerick	323

Source: SDU TrolleyGAR Full Capacity Protocol Escalation Date of Report: 10/12/19

\*Data for 2019 covers period 1/1/2019 – 10/12/19

I trust this answers your question to your satisfaction.

Yours sincerely,



**Sonya Cotter**  
**Interim Head of Special Delivery Unit (SDU)**  
**Performance Management and Improvement Unit**  
**National Services**