



13th May 2020

Mr. Paul Murphy, TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare St.
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 4416/20

Dear Deputy Murphy,

I write in relation to the above PQ *'To ask the Minister for Health the reason persons that are 16 years of age are required to register in the adult accident and emergency unit in Tallaght Hospital while still being required to have a parent or guardian accompany them at the time of registration; if admitted, if they will be allowed to have a parent or guardian continue to stay with them outside of visiting times and overnight as would be the case in a children's accident and emergency unit; and when and the reason the decision was made to treat persons that are 16 and 17 years of age in this way'*.

Tallaght University Hospital follows national guidance on the treatment of children and the protocols in Tallaght University Hospital are in line with practices nationally. Tallaght University Hospital has been advised by Children's Health Ireland (CHI) which has governance of paediatric hospital services that the limit for the treatment of children with their emergency departments is to the eve of their 16th birthday.

Please be advised that patients are admitted to same sex rooms except in the case where patients require a higher level of care such as Intensive Care, and in such occasions there is also a higher level of staffing and observation.

Yours sincerely,

MR JOHN KELLY
DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE