



15<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Mr Francis Noel Duffy  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**RE: PQ 5551/22**

Dear Deputy Duffy,

I write in response to the below PQ:

“To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the fact that Tallaght University Hospital has discouraged the public from attending the emergency department for less severe casualties and to consider alternative care options due to long waits and pressure on the department; if his Department has consulted with the HSE on surge capacity plans and other measures to ensure that the hospital has the capacity and resources needed to meet the number of patients entering the emergency department; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

The emergency department at Tallaght University Hospital has seen continued increased activity in January 2022, this trend can be seen across other sites too. While the hospital continues to operate a COVID and non-COVID pathways, the majority of presentations to the ED have been non-COVID presentation and all availability bed capacity is being used. Patients are prioritise to be seen based on their clinical need.

Additional measures are also being used such as the use of the HSE Safety Net Agreement and a reduction of onsite inpatient surgical activity. TUH is seeing an increase in the hospitals Delayed Transfer of Care lists, this is due to challenges in allocating carers to home care packages in the community and also the temporary closure of nursing home beds regionally due to COVID outbreaks. We work very closely with our colleagues in the HSE when we see a surge in activity. In addition the Hospital is working with the HSE on the development of an acute floor model, which will further enhance to services provided to patients presenting to the Emergency department.

TUH have also been affected by an increase in COVID related leave for our staff in January 2022, this has stabilised in the past 2 weeks.

Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

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**MR JOHN KELLY**  
**DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE**