

CC/MQ/MC

22nd February 2022

Mr Maurice Quinlivan TD,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 7101/22

***To ask the Minister for Health the numbers of public and private patients presenting to the emergency department at University Hospital Limerick for each week in January 2022; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Maurice Quinlivan**

Dear Deputy Quinlivan,

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.

Please see below data in relation to Emergency Department attendances for the month of January. It is not possible to break this data down by public and private patients. Private insurers do not provide cover for emergency hospital care and therefore all patients who attend Emergency Departments across the country are considered public patients.

Week	Attendances
03/01 to 09/01	1,335
10/01 to 16/01	1,506
17/01 to 23/01	1,591
24/01 to 30/01	1,592
Total	6,024

The Emergency Department at UHL continues to be exceptionally busy. The trend of high emergency presentations and admissions has been sustained for a number of months, in the Mid-West and in hospitals across the country.

We continue to follow our escalation plan at UHL, which includes additional ward rounds, accelerating discharges and identifying patients for transfer to our Model 2 hospitals. We are also working with our colleagues in HSE Mid-West Community Healthcare, in order to expedite discharges. However, it should be noted that patients being admitted to UHL at this time are generally very sick with complex conditions, and require longer inpatient stays to recover.

All patients who present to the ED with minor injuries at this time—such as suspected broken bones, cuts, bruises, sprains and strains—are being redirected to the Injury Units in Ennis, Nenagh and St John's for treatment.

However, we want to reassure the people of the Mid-West that anyone who requires emergency treatment for heart attacks, strokes and other serious illnesses will continue to be treated, 24/7, in the Emergency Department at UHL.

I trust this clarifies the position. Please contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,



Colette Cowan
Chief Executive Officer
UL Hospitals Group