



**Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta
Géaroibríochtaí**

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An Bóthar Míleata, Cill Mhaighneann, Baile
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Deputy David Cullinane
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

30th June 2022

PQ 31701/22 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of warnings issued by hospitals advising patients with non-emergency conditions to seek assistance from other parts of the health service and to not attend their emergency department in 2021 and to date in 2022; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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 understand that the specific information which you are requesting is not available.

However, I am advised that the HSE issues public advice on Emergency Departments both nationally and at Hospital Group and Hospital level, as necessary. For example, on Friday, 3rd June 2022, the HSE encouraged the public to help protect our hospitals and emergency departments over the June bank holiday weekend <https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/news/media/pressrel/hse-encouraging-the-public-to-help-protect-our-hospitals-and-emergency-departments-over-the-june-bank-holiday-weekend.html>

Similarly on 16th March 2022 <https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/news/media/pressrel/hse-appealing-to-the-public-to-help-protect-our-hospitals-and-emergency-departments-over-st-patricks-day-and-the-bank-holiday-weekend.html>

Public messaging on EDs may also form part of public advice on other healthcare issues such as COVID 19.

A Hospital Group or hospital may decide to issue their own public advice, having regard to circumstances presenting for the individual hospital or the HG.

I trust this is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Carol Ivory
General Manager, Acute Operations