



Géaroibríochtaí,  
Áras Dargan, An Ceantar Theas, Bóthar, Míleata, Baile Átha Cliath 8

Acute Operations,  
The Dargan Building, Heuston South Quarter, Military Road, Dublin 8

7<sup>th</sup> June 2022

**Deputy Patricia Ryan, TD**  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ 26591/22**

*To ask the Minister for Health the progress that is being made in implementing the recommendations of the Independent Review of Unscheduled Care Performance; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

-Patricia Ryan

Dear Deputy Ryan,

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.

The Nine Site Review of Unscheduled Care Performance was commissioned by the HSE in 2019 to review unscheduled (emergency) care performance across the nine hospitals that were under the greatest pressures in Winter 2018/2019.

At that time, the aim of the review was to provide expert insight and recommendations that could help hospitals improve processes and procedures in delivering patient care.

The review conducted by an Independent Review Team between August and November 2019 provided thirty recommendations across the areas of; leadership and governance, operational processes and pathways pre and post admission, integrated working, data and business intelligence.

The arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020 required the HSE to respond to the extraordinary challenges posed and in doing so resulted in the implementation of structures and initiatives to address many of the issues and recommendations that were identified in the draft report.

The review as undertaken in 2019 has limited if any material benefit to be considered today as a basis for implementation, particularly given the action plans in place to address our current and future challenges.

In this context the draft report is outdated as a result of the pandemic and the significant investment that has taken place in our hospitals during that time. The report has remained in draft format since January 2020 and close out of the review process to include factual accuracy checks and response from the nine sites reviewed has not yet been completed.



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However, significant progress has been made in enhancing capacity in both our acute and community services to facilitate patient flow within our acute hospital system and egress:

- As of April 2022, there are 69,262 WTEs in the hospital groups, representing a total increase of 14.46% in comparison to December 2019;
- As of April 2022, there are 56,490 WTEs in the Community Healthcare Organisations (CHOs), representing a total increase of 9.8% in comparison to December 2019 ;
- 847 acute beds delivered to date; with 381 further approved to be delivered 2022/2023.
- 306 critical care beds delivered to end of April; 27 further beds expected to be delivered in 2022.
- 73 sub-acute beds delivered;
- 36,489 private hospital beds days used to date from 3/01/22 – 29/5/22.
- 342 community intermediate care beds delivered; and
- 554 private intermediate care beds contracted on a weekly basis.

In addition, there is ongoing work underway in developing alternative pathways of care to EDs and to ensure care is delivered in the right place at the right time, and includes:

- The Enhanced Community Care Programme.
- Additional Home support Hours.
- GP access to diagnostics.
- National Ambulance Service and multidisciplinary teams providing alternative pathways to EDs (Pathfinder)
- Expansion of Community Intervention teams.

I trust the above outlines the significant progress that has been, and continues to be, made to improve the provision of unscheduled care.

Yours sincerely,

*Jacqueline McNulty*

**Jacqueline McNulty**  
**General Manager Unscheduled Care**  
**Acute Operations**