



12th December 2022

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

RE: PQ 59414/22

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 long wait times facing attendees of Tallaght University Hospital's accident and emergency department; and his views on the actions being taken to alleviate this pressure.”

Answer:

Attendances to the Emergency Department at TUH have been exceptionally high in the last number of weeks with a higher than normal percentage of patients requiring admission. In addition, a high number of admitted patients have complex care needs. With high attendances and high rates of admissions this puts pressure on the ED and also the Hospital.

The Hospital works continuously to free up beds for admitted patients, but there is a clear underlying requirement to develop additional onsite bed capacity. Following completion of an external strategic analysis review which was submitted to the HSE and we are waiting for sign off on this to move to the next state in the process to develop a new 72 single bed facility at TUH to address these additional capacity requirements.

The Hospital has also developed a number several new clinical pathways, including a GP pathway to reduce the waiting time for patients who do not need to be assessed by an ED clinician. The Hospital is also working with the National Ambulance Service on a recently launched initiative called Pathfinder which is focussed on improving outcomes for older people by providing safe alternative care at home rather than in hospital. This service is being jointly run by NAS staff working with Allied & Social Health Care colleagues from the Hospital.

The Hospital continues to have a high number of patients waiting for either home care packages, housing adjustments, access to rehabilitation or a place in a nursing home.

The Hospital have issued press statements to ask the public to consider alternative care options before attending the ED as unfortunately people with less urgent complaints will experience long wait times. The Hospital regrets any delay a patient experiences whilst waiting in our ED.



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

Yours sincerely

MR JOHN KELLY
DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE