

CC/MQ/MC

Email: [pqmidwestacute@hse.ie](mailto:pqmidwestacute@hse.ie)

08<sup>th</sup> May 2023

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

**RE: PQ 17987/23, PQ 17988/23, PQ 17989/23**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of people in 2022 who waited over twelve hours to be treated following presentation at the emergency department of University Hospital Limerick; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Maurice Quinlivan**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of people in 2022 who waited over eight hours to be treated following presentation at the Emergency Department of University Hospital Limerick; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Maurice Quinlivan**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of people in 2022 who waited over twenty-four hours to be treated following presentation at the Emergency Department of University Hospital Limerick; 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 Questions which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Please see below data in relation to the number of persons whose patient experience time (PET) was more than 6, 9 and 12 hours at the Emergency Department at University Hospital Limerick in 2022. PET is measured from a patient's arrival time to the ED to their departure time. Patients being receiving care in the Emergency Department as soon as they are triaged.

<b>Total presentations</b>	79,891
<b>Patient Experience Time over 6 hours</b>	40,584
<b>Patient Experience Time over 9 hours</b>	25,510
<b>Patient Experience Time over 24 hours</b>	9,351

Please note, we are required to report PET data to the HSE nationally, this includes patients whose PET was greater than 6, 9 and 24 hours. As such, it is not possible to provide the timeframes requested by you. These reports are regularly published at the following link:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/publications/performance-report>

University Hospital Limerick continues to manage very high numbers of attendances at its Emergency Department. For example, during the month of April, average daily attendances at the department were 227 compared with the 195 recorded in 2019, the last full year prior to the pandemic.

We are working to balance the marked demand on ED with the needs of high-acuity inpatients, while safely maintaining time-critical and other elective surgical activity. We do everything possible to maximise patient flow and minimise wait times.

We continue working to our escalation plan which includes additional ward rounding in UHL so appropriate patients can be discharged or transferred to Ennis, Nenagh and St John's Hospitals. Work is also ongoing with HSE Mid West Community Healthcare in order to expedite suitable discharges home or to community care beds.

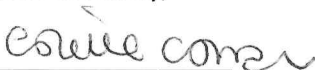
As you are aware, the Deloitte Report highlights that the shortage of acute bed capacity is the fundamental driver of hospital overcrowding in the Midwest. We're grateful for the support of government for the increase in bed capacity since the start of the pandemic, with an additional 98 inpatient beds and 10 critical care beds at UHL.

In addition, construction of a new 96-bed block development is ongoing at UHL. However, this will take two years to complete, and approximately half the new beds will be additional bed stock, with the remainder replacing beds currently in the multi-occupancy nightingale wards in the older parts of UHL.

We welcome the recent favourable comments of the Taoiseach recently towards a second 96-bed block that's provided for in the UHL site masterplan. This block is currently being planned with HSE Capital & Estates. We expect that plans will be submitted to the HSE nationally for the second 96-bed block in the coming weeks.

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

Yours sincerely,



**Prof Colette Cowan**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**UL Hospitals Group**

Length of stay > 6 hrs	40584
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Length of stay > 9 hrs	28510
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Length of stay > 24 hrs	9351
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