



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta  
Géaroibríochtaí

Aonad 4A, Áras Dargan, An Ceantar Theas,  
An Bóthar Míleata, Cill Mhaighneann, Baile  
Átha Cliath 8, D08 NN9V

Office of the National Director  
Acute Operations

Unit 4a, the Dargan Building, Heuston  
South Quarter, Military Road,  
Kilmainham, Dublin 8, D08 NN9V

[www.hse.ie](http://www.hse.ie)  
[@hselive](https://twitter.com/hselive)

t 01 795 9959  
e [acutehospitals@hse.ie](mailto:acutehospitals@hse.ie)

4<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Deputy Bernard J Durkan  
Dáil Eireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

***PQ 18867/23 - To ask the Minister for Health the extent to which any shortcomings in the health services such as overcrowding at accident and emergency departments, lack of adequate accommodation, insufficient numbers of staff at various levels have been addressed throughout the health services, with a view to meeting the concerns of the public and internal staff; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Bernard J. Durkan***

Dear Deputy Durkan,

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.

It should be noted that as of end of April 2023, a total of 466,066 patients attended our Emergency Departments year to date. This reflects an increase of 4.2% versus the same time period in 2019, and amounts to an additional 18,835 patients. In order to meet the increasing demand, there has been significant investment in the HSE over the last number of years through annual National Service Plans and recent Winter Plans, with €169 million allocated to the 2022/23 winter plan. The 2022/23 integrated Winter Plan to support Acute and Community services to respond to anticipated levels of demand which included approval for 608 additional whole time equivalents (WTEs), including Emergency Medicine Consultants, additional nursing staff specifically for emergency departments under the Safer Staffing Framework and a bespoke plan for each Hospital. This investment has facilitated the development of new services as well as improvements to existing services.

A total of 975 new acute beds have been delivered as part of the National Service and Winter Plans 21/22, with a further 204 beds currently scheduled to deliver in 2023.

In addition to steps being taken to reduce pressure on Emergency Departments, hospital avoidance measures are in place to provide alternative pathways of care for patients including Community Intervention Teams which help to prevent unnecessary hospital admissions and facilitate early discharge from hospital.

Alongside a review of capacity being conducted by the Department, the HSE are developing a three-year unscheduled care improvement plan combining process improvement and expedited infrastructural investment.

I trust this response is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

General Manager Unscheduled Care  
Acute Operations