



Géaroibríochtaí

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

Acute Operations,

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

9th February 2023

**Deputy Peadar Tóibín
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2**

PQ 4888/23

To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons who died on hospital trolleys in each of the past ten years, by hospital, in tabular form.

Dear Deputy Tóibín,

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.

It is not possible to provide you with a specific response as the information on hospital deaths is not categorised specifically to those that occurred on hospital trolleys.

In order to put my response in context, it is important to note that a patient may be cared for on hospital trolley in a range of acute settings along their care journey. These could include care episodes when patients attend for day procedures in a range of hospital facilities such as diagnostic and intervention suites and for patients who present for clinical assessment and treatment in areas such as Emergency Departments, Medical Assessment Units and Minor Injury Units.

With specific reference to the significant number of unscheduled patient attendances to Emergency Departments each year, the death of a patient in an ED is not an uncommon occurrence. The vast majority of such deaths are in patients whose condition has already been recognised as being associated with a risk of death. It is also important to note it is mandatory that all deaths occurring in an ED are reported to the Coroner, whereby it is independently decided as to whether or not the circumstances of the death need to be investigated further by way of an inquest and, whether or not a post-mortem examination needs to be performed on the patient's body. In many EDs, this process is supplemented by a review of the clinical course of all patients who die in the ED at a regular scheduled multidisciplinary meeting.

I trust this response is helpful.



Yours sincerely,

Jacqueline McNulty

Jacqueline McNulty
General Manager Unscheduled Care
Acute Operations