



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

7<sup>th</sup> February 2023

**Deputy Violet-Anne Wynne**

**Dáil Eireann**

**Leinster House**

**Dublin 2**

**PQ 3271/23**

**To ask the Minister for Health if the HSE winter plan will be produced at an earlier stage for winter 2023/2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Violet-Anne Wynne**

Dear Deputy Wynne,

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.

There has been significant investment in the HSE over the last number of years through annual National Service Plans and recent Winter Plans. This investment has facilitated the development of new services, improvements to existing services and a significant emergency response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Despite this, the Service has been extremely challenged with high levels of emergency attendances and admissions to our acute hospitals, mainly as a result of Covid-19, Influenza, RSV and other illnesses.

The HSE delivered an 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.

The HSE further responded to the high level of demand over the Christmas/New Year period through an additional range of measures including the establishment of a National Emergency Management Team (NEMT), site visits by the National Team to each Hospital and approval of additional support and capacity measures as required.

The Winter Oversight Group is currently planning an “After Action Review” to evaluate the response to the additional demand. This review will inform planning for winter 2023/2024.



Yours sincerely,

Jacqueline McNulty

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