



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
@hselive

t 01 795 9959
e acute.operations@hse.ie

Deputy Catherine Murphy
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

31st January, 2023

PQ 4201/23 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of warnings issued by hospitals advising patients with non-emergency conditions to seek assistance from other areas of the health services and to not attend their emergency department in 2022. - Catherine Murphy

Dear Deputy Murphy,

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.

I understand that the specific information which you are requesting is not available. However, I am advised that the HSE issues public advice on Emergency Departments both nationally and at Hospital Group and hospital level, as necessary.

For example, last February as part of an update on the impact of winter pressures on health services, the HSE asked the public to consider all care pathways available to patients who do not need emergency care: <https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/news/media/pressrel/impact-of-winter-pressures-on-health-services.html>

Similarly, in October the HSE appealed to the public to stay safe and help protect Emergency Departments for those who need urgent and emergency care by considering all care options: <https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/news/media/pressrel/hse-appealing-to-the-public-to-help-protect-our-hospitals-and-emergency-departments-over-st-patricks-day-and-the-bankholiday-weekend.html>

Public messaging on EDs may also form part of public advice on other healthcare issues such as COVID-19. A Hospital Group or hospital may decide to issue their own public advice, having regard to circumstances presenting for the individual hospital or Hospital Group.

I trust this is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Nessa Lynch
General Manager
Acute Operations