



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta  
Géarobríochtaí

Aonad 4A, Áras Dargan, An Ceantar Theas,  
An Bóthar Míleata, Cill Mhaighneann, Baile  
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Deputy Mark Ward  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

27<sup>th</sup> July 2023

***PQ 35317/23 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of total attendances at all Emergency Departments and the number of mental health-related admissions to hospital in each of the years 2019 to 2022 and to date in 2023; by age and by Hospital/Hospital Group; and if he will make a statement on the matter***

Dear Deputy Ward,

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 are different types of support available for people with mental health difficulties. Many of the supports listed on the [HSE website](#) are provided by agencies with the support of the HSE and are in a community setting rather than acute setting. Persons can access most of the services without a referral and there are specific services for children and for adults.

General Practitioners (GP's) are usually the first person to approach in relation to mental health concerns. In an emergency situation, and outside of GP hours, it is advised to attend your local accident and emergency department in your local hospital. Most in-patient services are within general hospitals. Admissions are usually of a short duration and most people go to hospital by choice.

Please see the attached table of data provided by the Hospital Inpatient Enquire (HIPE) Department of the Healthcare Pricing Office which shows the number of mental health-related admissions to hospital in 2019 – 2022, broken down by hospital group and by age groups. HIPE colleagues advised that the data for 2023 is still open, and therefore cannot be provided.

Please see the attached table of data on the number of total attendances at all Emergency Departments 2019 – 2023 to date provided by the Acute Business Information Unit (BIU).



I trust this is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nessa Lynch', written over a horizontal line.

**Nessa Lynch**  
**General Manager**  
**Acute Operations**

