



14th June 2023

Deputy Paul Murphy
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ 26704/23 - To ask the Minister for Health the reasons for the ongoing overcrowding in Tallaght Hospital's emergency department; the steps that are being taken to address it; and if he will make a statement on the matter

Dear Deputy Murphy,

Tallaght University Hospital has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the below Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister of Health.

Please be advised that this year Tallaght University Hospital (TUH) is seeing an increase in both presentations of >75 year olds and an overall increase in complexity of patients attending the Emergency Department. Our GP colleagues in the community are under similar pressures and if patients cannot access a GP appointment they will on some occasions have to attend the ED.

In addition, the absence of a public local injury unit within the Hospital's catchment area also contributes to pressure on ED services, we are working with the HSE to explore option to develop this service.

The need for greater bed capacity in TUH has been acknowledged by the HSE and there is now funding approved to develop a new ward block.

The Hospital is working closely with HSE colleagues in the community to reduce the number of patients presenting to ED through the roll out of the Enhanced Community Care (ECC) programme this aims to increase community health services in the TUH catchment area.

Work is also on going with the National Ambulance Service on admission avoidance initiative called Pathfinder. The aim of this initiative is to provide safe care at home for older people rather than in Hospital.

The Hospital regrets the extended wait times that some patients experience while awaiting treatment through the ED, priority is given at all times to those requiring the most urgent medical care.

Yours sincerely

MR JOHN KELLY
DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE