



Deputy Peadar Tóibín
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

23rd April 2025

PQ 17188/25 - To ask the Minister for Health the average time people were waiting to be seen in each emergency department in the State in each of the past ten years, in tabular form. -Peadar Tóibín

Dear Deputy Tóibín,

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.

The HSE Business Information Unit (BIU) is a central repository for the collection of activity information for Acute and Non Acute Services. The BIU collects, collates and validates extensive amounts of data which is used in performance monitoring and measurement to support the HSE in operational and strategic decisions.

The BIU advised that information on the average wait time to be seen is not collected centrally. However, information on the average Patient Experience Time (PET) is collected and detailed below.

PET is the length of time a patient spends in an Emergency Department (ED) from the time they register in an ED until they are discharged to a hospital bed or discharged home. It therefore does not describe the time a patient is waiting to be seen, but the total time they spend in ED. The data is recorded by an average of the time in hours.

The purpose of EDs is to deal with serious and unexpected illness and injury. EDs operate on a 24/7 basis and often experience high volumes of persons presenting. During busy periods or when a significant emergency / trauma is underway; 'wait time' in the ED can be extensive.

There are many reasons that result in longer wait times such as volume of patients presenting to the ED and the requirement to prioritise. This can mean that patients with less serious illnesses and conditions may need to wait longer for their treatment. Many people, whose clinical needs could be more appropriately addressed by self-care, pharmacists, GPs, GP Out of Hours Services and Injury Units, continue to attend Emergency Departments.

The average PET times for the years requested has been provided in the attached Excel file supplied by the Acute BIU, please see the data notes on the Excel file and outlined below.

Data notes:

- Our Lady's Hospital Navan data available from 17th December 2017.
- St Michael's Hospital data available from 1st January 2018.
- During COVID-19 CHI Tallaght closed their ED department from close of business on Friday 27th March 2020 and reopened on 3rd September 2020.



- Data gaps due to the Cyber-Attack in 2021 - Connolly Hospital from 13th May to 30th June and Naas General Hospital from 15th May to 6th July and 8th to 15th July.
- Mater Misericordiae University Hospital resubmitted data from 2023 to March 2025 as they excluded Smithfield Injury Unit data from their ED extract.
- Data provided up to March 2025.
- Data relates to average in hours.

I trust this is of assistance to you.

Nessa Lynch
General Manager
Access and Integration

Please note data contained in this report is preliminary and may be subject to change

If information contained within this file is used in other reports then as a minimum requirement BIU must be referenced.



Information Request Number: PQ 17188/25

Date report created: 16/04/2025

Data Source: PET Data

Subject: PQ 17188/25 To ask the Minister for Health the average time people were waiting to be seen in each emergency department in the State in each of the past ten years, in tabular form. -Peadar Tóibín

Notes:

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Data provided up to March 2025

Data relates to average in hours

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
HSE Dublin and Midlands	5.9	5.8	6.1	6.1	6.6	5.3	6.8	7.4	7.1	6.6	6.8
Children's Health Ireland	4.1	4.1	4.2	3.8	3.8	3.0	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.4	4.3
MRH Mullingar	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.8	6.4	7.0	6.9	7.5	6.9	5.9	5.9
MRH Portlaoise	4.6	5.8	6.6	5.9	6.1	4.8	5.5	5.4	5.7	5.3	5.1
MRH Tullamore	6.1	6.5	6.4	6.8	7.6	5.3	6.4	7.3	5.2	5.1	5.2
Naas General Hospital	8.7	8.0	7.7	8.6	10.0	7.2	10.8	11.3	11.4	10.6	11.4
St. James's Hospital	7.2	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.7	5.9	6.7	8.1	8.8	8.3	8.4
Tallaght University Hospital	8.0	7.1	8.5	9.2	10.3	8.3	10.4	12.9	11.9	11.3	12.6
HSE Dublin and North East	7.3	7.0	7.8	6.9	7.1	6.0	6.4	7.3	7.8	8.3	8.4
Beaumont Hospital	9.7	8.1	7.9	8.0	9.1	7.1	7.9	9.5	9.4	10.3	10.8
Cavan General Hospital	4.4	4.6	4.7	5.3	5.5	5.9	7.0	6.9	7.0	7.8	8.5
Connolly Hospital	8.7	7.2	6.8	8.1	7.9	6.4	6.0	7.6	7.4	7.6	6.5
Mater Misericordiae University Hospital	7.6	8.7	8.4	7.8	7.8	6.3	5.2	6.5	9.1	8.9	8.8
Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital	6.3	6.5	6.4	6.3	6.6	5.5	7.0	7.5	8.0	9.4	9.7
Our Lady's Hospital Navan			12.6	6.1	5.7	4.6	5.3	5.8	5.8	5.7	6.2
HSE Dublin and South East	5.4	5.7	5.6	5.4	5.1	4.1	4.7	5.7	5.4	5.3	5.3
St. Luke's General Hospital Kilkenny	3.0	3.2	2.7	2.6	2.7	2.5	3.5	3.7	4.3	4.0	3.6
St. Michael's Hospital				2.7	2.8	2.8	2.9	3.4	3.2	3.4	3.7
St. Vincent's University Hospital	8.4	7.6	6.6	7.0	8.3	5.5	6.0	9.7	9.2	9.0	9.3
Tipperary University Hospital	6.0	7.7	7.8	8.2	5.0	4.4	5.4	5.9	5.5	5.3	5.3
UH Waterford	4.7	5.2	6.0	6.9	6.5	4.9	5.2	5.3	5.0	4.5	4.5
Wexford General Hospital	4.6	4.6	5.0	5.1	4.9	4.7	5.1	6.3	5.2	5.5	5.6
HSE Midwest	8.1	7.9	8.2	8.9	9.1	6.4	7.4	9.7	8.8	8.2	8.6
UH Limerick	8.1	7.9	8.2	8.9	9.1	6.4	7.4	9.7	8.8	8.2	8.6
HSE South West	6.4	7.6	7.2	8.0	9.2	7.6	8.6	10.5	9.5	8.5	8.9
Cork University Hospital	7.1	8.5	6.6	7.4	8.5	7.6	8.9	10.8	10.1	8.8	9.7
Mercy University Hospital	6.8	8.2	8.0	7.9	8.9	7.1	8.2	11.1	9.2	8.1	9.0
UH Kerry	5.4	6.0	7.0	8.7	10.1	8.1	8.9	9.6	9.1	8.6	7.9
HSE West and North West	5.1	5.3	5.4	5.7	5.9	5.4	6.6	7.7	7.6	7.2	7.5
Galway University Hospitals	8.4	7.7	7.7	9.3	9.2	7.3	8.1	10.2	8.8	8.0	8.5
Letterkenny University Hospital	4.4	5.0	4.7	4.9	5.2	3.8	5.6	6.6	8.0	7.3	8.1
Mayo University Hospital	4.0	4.8	4.5	4.6	4.8	4.3	5.6	7.0	6.2	6.0	6.6
Portlincula University Hospital	4.0	4.2	4.8	4.7	5.1	4.7	5.4	5.3	5.8	6.6	6.7
Sligo University Hospital	4.9	4.9	5.4	4.9	5.3	6.7	8.1	9.7	9.1	8.0	7.6
Grand Total	6.0	6.2	6.4	6.3	6.6	5.5	6.5	7.5	7.3	7.0	7.2