



Oifig an Stiúrthóra Náisiúnta  
um Rochtain agus Imeachadh

Ospideal an Dr. Steevens  
Baile Atha Cliath, D08 W2A8

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Deputy Cathal Crowe  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

13<sup>th</sup> May 2025

***PQ 18783/25 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of UK residents that attended emergency departments in Ireland in 2024 for free healthcare under the NHS/HSE reciprocal agreement. -Cathal Crowe***

Dear Deputy Crowe,

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.

Both the Irish and British Governments are committed to maintaining, in so far as possible, the current healthcare arrangements under the Common Travel Area (CTA). Ireland and the UK are part of the CTA.

The CTA means that Irish and UK residents can move freely between the two countries to live, work, and access public services including healthcare.

On 30 December 2020, the EU and the UK signed the Trade and Cooperation Agreement. This provides a framework for access to healthcare to continue for people resident in Ireland who are working, visiting or residing in the UK from 1 January 2021. This includes planned treatment and necessary healthcare.

Please see the below links for further information in this regard:

<https://www.hse.ie/brexit/cross-border-and-treatment-abroad/#:~:text=On%2030%20December%202020%2C%20the,planned%20treatment%20and%20necessary%20healthcare.>

Please see below website for further details, outlining the UK government's guidance to UK nationals visiting Ireland:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/healthcare-for-uk-nationals-visiting-ireland>

The Hospital In-Patient Enquiry (HIPE) is a health information system, managed by the Healthcare Pricing Office of HSE Finance and is designed to collect clinical and administrative data on discharges from, and deaths in, acute public hospitals in Ireland. HIPE discharges are clinically coded from charts in the hospitals; this includes translating medical terminology into alphanumeric code and using the entire chart to extract the conditions and procedures to create an adequate picture of the patient's health care encounter.

Colleagues in HIPE have advised data on the numbers of UK residents that attended Emergency Departments (EDs) in 2024 is not available. They have advised that the number of UK residents admitted, to include in-patients and day cases is available.

Please see the included Excel file detailing this information.



I trust this is of assistance to you.

Yours Sincerely,

**Nessa Lynch**  
**General Manager**  
**Access and Integration**

*[Faint, illegible text, likely a signature or stamp]*



Filename: H250085\_PQ\_18783\_25\_HIPE\_Information.xlsx  
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Note that in-patient and day case discharges are reported only; ED and out-patient attendances are not recorded on HIPE.

Table: Number of discharges from acute hospitals reported to HIPE with residence in the UK and admitted via emergency, 2024

	Year 2024
N	1,114