



Tallaght  
University  
Hospital

An Academic Partner of Trinity College Dublin

Ospidéal  
Ollscoile  
Thamhlachta

13<sup>th</sup> August 2025

Deputy Ciaran Ahern  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**RE: PQ 43089/25**

Dear Deputy Ahern

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

**To ask the Minister for Health the average number wait times in the accident and emergency department in Tallaght University Hospital in each of the past five years; the steps she is taking to reduce wait times, overcrowding and understaffing in the Tallaght University Hospital accident and emergency department; and if she will make a statement on the matter.**

Year on year TUH is seeing an increase in both presentations of patients over the age of 75 and an overall increase in complexity of patients attending the Emergency Department. The Hospital works continuously to provide timely access to beds for admitted patients, however there is a clear underlying requirement to develop additional onsite and offsite bed capacity. This has been recently acknowledged by the HSE and there is now funding approved to develop a new ward block.

In addition the Hospital has developed patient pathways in collaboration 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 with the aim admission avoidance by enhancing and increasing community health services. Unfortunately GP density in our catchment area is 40% less than the national average which puts our GP colleagues under similar access pressures.

Notwithstanding all of our efforts, the primary challenge for the Hospital remains the number and acuity of patients presenting to the ED and the limited bed capacity that is currently available to the Hospital. The challenge of timely egress for patients is ongoing, with unavoidable delays in patient discharges occurring due to the lack of available nursing home beds. In addition, the absence of a public local injury unit within the Hospital's catchment area is a significant factor contributing to pressure on ED services. TUH have submitted a proposal to develop a local injury unit, and this could open in early 2026.



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

### **Avg Wait Time by Year From Registration to be Seen by ED Clinician**

**Date Range From: 01/01/2020 to 31/12/2024**

	<b>Hours &amp; Minutes</b>
Average for 2020	<b>3 hours 33 mins</b>
Average for 2021	<b>3 hours 49 mins</b>
Average for 2022	<b>4 hours 48 mins</b>
Average for 2023	<b>4 hours 13 mins</b>
Average for 2024	<b>5 hours 2 mins</b>
Note: Calculation based on attendances where there was a Seen by ED Clinician Recorded	Clinician Recorded

Yours sincerely,

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**MR JOHN KELLY**  
**DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE**