

By email to: joanna.byrne@oireachtas.ie

2nd April 2025

Ms. Joanna Byrne, T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Re: Parliamentary Question 13892/25 *“To ask the Minister for Health the current healthcare services provided at Louth County Hospital, Dundalk.”*

Re: Parliamentary Question 13893/25 *“To ask the Minister for Health the current healthcare services provided at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda.”*

Dear Deputy Byrne,

HSE Dublin and North East 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. Having reviewed the matter, the following outlines the position.

Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital Drogheda and Louth County Hospital, Dundalk are part of HSE Dublin & North East Region. Both hospitals operate conjointly, with an integrated managerial and clinical governance system, care pathways and support functions.

Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda is a Model 3, 486 bedded Hospital, with 24/7, 365 emergency care and related services. It is the main acute hospital in the North East region and currently remains the 6th busiest Emergency Department nationally. The Hospital Services include Critical Care, Orthopaedic Trauma, Surgery, Medicine (wide range of specialties), Acute Stroke Unit, Cardiology, Gynaecology and Obstetrics and Paediatrics. The Emergency Floor includes: An Emergency Department (Resus, Majors, Minors, RAT), a Clinical Decision Unit, an accredited AMAU and an accredited ASAU, and a Paediatric Emergency Department.

The services include scheduled and unscheduled care activity with inpatient acute services being primarily of unscheduled care origin. Most scheduled care activity for Drogheda Hospital takes place in Louth County Hospital, Dundalk and Our Lady's Hospital, Navan.

The Hospital team deliver safe and timely access to our patients and community and perform highly in national unscheduled care and ED Key performance indicators.

Louth County Hospital, Dundalk is a Model 2, 93 bedded Hospital and in line with the Smaller Hospitals Framework, has a Minor Injuries Unit located on site which provide an important service to the local community.

There are 32 day beds and 61 inpatient beds that provide palliative, step down and rehabilitation care. There is a Louth County Hospital cross site endoscopy waiting list and this service ensures that the patients from the Louth/Meath area have equal access to treatment. The Endoscopy Unit in Louth County Hospital has been accredited as a National Colorectal Screening Centre.

The other services provided in Louth County Hospital include venesection, colposcopy, diabetes (incorporating Diabetic Unit / Day Centre, Diabetic Nurse Specialists, Ante-Natal Diabetic Nurse Specialist, Dietician and Podiatrist), ophthalmology, outpatient clinics and elderly assessment service. There is direct access from General Practitioners (GPs) to the Consultant Geriatrician Lead Elderly Assessment Service and services were transferred from Drogheda to Dundalk in 2010. This service provides a one stop assessment for GP referrals for access to assessment by Medical, Health & Social Care Professionals and specialist nurses.

The Cottage Community Hub:

The Cottage Community Hub is part of the HSE Dublin and North East and is based in close proximity to Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda. It has been in operation since March 2021 following extensive renovations. The Hub provides inpatient and ambulatory assessment for older adults in Drogheda and the surrounding areas.

There are 14 in-patient beds on the first floor for older adults whose clinical team feel that they would benefit from receiving further care and support following their acute care in Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda. The nursing and care staff help each individual to set their own goals to work towards a sustained discharge home through a programme of reablement.

The Ambulatory Assessment Hub is housed on the ground floor and involves a holistic, multi-dimensional, multi-disciplinary assessment of older adults who have been referred from the community by their GP or a consultant. The team includes Geriatricians, Advanced Nurse Practitioners, Clinical Nurse Specialists, Dietician, Occupational Therapist, Physiotherapist, Speech and Language Therapist and Medical Social Worker. A comprehensive assessment is carried out for each individual patient and a plan of care is developed in collaboration with community services.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

June Molloy
Communications and Public Affairs Manager
HSE Dublin and North East