

By email to: joanna.byrne@oireachtas.ie

21st May 2025

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

Re: Parliamentary Question 23011/25 *“To ask the Minister for Health to outline the details of any planned future expansion at a hospital (details supplied) that would alleviate pressures and challenges being faced in the accident and emergency department, and would increase capacity to manage high volumes of people who present by ambulance; and if she will make a statement on the matter.”-Joanna Byrne*

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 the Dublin North East Regional Health Authority. 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, 485 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 5th 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 extensive Phase 2 Capital development which commenced in 2017 was completed in January 2020 in Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda.

The Phase 2 Capital Development project consisted of an extension to the Adult Emergency Department and to the Paediatric Emergency Department. Over the last 4 years there were 3 more ward floors configured as 84 single-room accommodation. A new state of the art Theatre suite comprising of 5 new operating theatres was completed in January 2020.

Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda are future planning to safeguard against the increasing demand presenting to the hospital from the wider catchment area. The anticipated significant future growth in the local population, the increasing population >75years & any future reconfiguration of acute services necessitates the requirement to prepare plans for the hospital to meet this increasing demand and further develop the hospitals capacity & capability. In this regard there are a number of projects to improve acute hospital capacity:



Ground Floor East GFE (10 Beds) Expanded bed capacity by ten general beds and two ICU beds in January 2023.

96 Inpatient Beds; The Department of Health “Acute Inpatient Bed Capacity Expansion Plan (2024-2031)” supports the delivery of 96 new inpatient beds before 2028. Site feasibility study ongoing.

15 Bed modular short stay medical unit, Operational Q2 2025.

Ground Floor West GFW (28 beds) conversion of administrative area to inpatient ward. Planning permission granted Q3 2024. Phase one construction (Q4 2024) is now complete with Phase two of Construction commenced Q2 2025.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Stephanie Dunne
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