



Deputy Marie Sherlock
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

10th October 2025

PQ 52974/25 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of people who presented to accident and emergency departments, per level four hospital, but leave before they are fully assessed in the years 2023, 2024, and to date in 2025, in tabular form and by number and percentage of total presentation; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Marie Sherlock

Dear Deputy Sherlock,

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 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 HSE currently reports the number of patients who registered yet decided not to wait within it's Emergency Departments (EDs). Patients may choose to leave before triage, after triage or prior to a decision to admit or discharge home. The data does not distinguish or categorise patients that may require admission but left ED before admission or treatment.

The purpose of EDs is to deal with serious and unexpected illness and injury. EDs and their associated hospitals must clinically prioritise people who must be treated first, and those who may need to wait, or those who may need to attend a more appropriate care setting. To ensure this process is clinically safe for patients, Irish hospitals use the internationally tested Manchester Triage Tool which prioritises patients into a number of categories based on their clinical needs. Where a patient is seriously ill or injured, their needs will be prioritised above those with less serious conditions.

However, as demand inevitably overtakes capacity, prioritisation and consequential waiting may occur. In this regard, patients with less serious needs may choose to avail of alternative options. In many instances those presenting to EDs could have their clinical needs more appropriately addressed by self-care, pharmacists, GPs, GP Out of Hours Services and Injury Units. In Ireland, approximately 27% of those attending EDs are actually admitted to hospital.

The information requested has been provided in the attached Excel file supplied by the BIU.



Please see the data notes on the Excel file, and outlined below:

Data notes:

- Please note the Attendances and Did Not Wait data are based on the Patient Experience Time data.
- Please note 2023 and 2024 data is from January to December and 2025 data is from January to August.

I trust this is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

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 52974/25
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Subject: To ask the Minister for Health the number of people who presented to accident and emergency departments, per level four hospital, but leave before they are fully assessed in the years 2023, 2024, and to date in 2025, in tabular form and by number and percentage of total presentation; and if she will make a statement on the matter. - Marie Sherlock

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**Please note 2023 and 2024 data is from January to December and 2025 data is from January to August

	Attendances			Did Not Waits			Percentage		
	2023 FY	2024 FY	2025 YTD	2023 FY	2024 FY	2025 YTD	2023 FY	2024 FY	2025 YTD
Beaumont Hospital	62,941	66,349	44,857	3,448	3,594	3,024	5.5%	5.4%	6.7%
Cork University Hospital	77,976	87,392	58,038	3,898	3,572	2,975	5.0%	4.1%	5.1%
Galway University Hospitals	75,596	81,196	57,271	3,976	3,404	2,572	5.3%	4.2%	4.5%
Mater Misericordiae University Hospital	76,663	83,090	59,250	12,493	13,946	9,254	16.3%	16.8%	15.6%
St. James's Hospital	55,268	59,995	42,847	6,542	7,054	5,568	11.8%	11.8%	13.0%
St. Vincent's University Hospital	63,155	67,042	46,618	6,007	5,308	3,503	9.5%	7.9%	7.5%
Tallaght University Hospital	55,476	60,177	41,140	8,958	9,234	6,198	16.1%	15.3%	15.1%
UH Limerick	80,000	87,195	62,459	6,198	6,062	5,086	7.7%	7.0%	8.1%
UH Waterford	71,740	72,243	50,614	2,672	2,541	1,854	3.7%	3.5%	3.7%

FY = Full year
YTD = Year to date

