



Deputy Marie Sherlock
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

21st October 2025

PQ 56412/25 - To ask the Minister for Health the average and longest waiting times for admission from emergency departments (ED) across every ED in the country. -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.

PET is the length of time a patient spends in an emergency department from the time they register in an ED until they are discharged to a hospital bed or discharged home. It therefore does not describe the time a patient is waiting to be seen, but the total time they spend in ED.

The purpose of EDs is to deal with serious and unexpected illness and injury. EDs operate 24/7 and often experience high volumes of persons presenting. During busy periods or when a significant emergency / trauma is underway 'wait time' in the ED can be extensive

There are many reasons that result in longer wait times such as volume of patients presenting to the ED and the requirement to prioritise. This can mean that patients with less serious illnesses and conditions may need to wait longer for their treatment. Many people, whose clinical needs could be more appropriately addressed by self-care, pharmacists, GPs, GP Out of Hours Services and Injury Units, continue to attend Emergency Departments.

The information requested has been provided in the attached Excel file supplied by the Acute BIU. Please note that the Acute BIU cannot provide information on the longest waiting times for admission from emergency departments.

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

Data notes:

- Acute BIU cannot provide the data for longest waiting times for admission from ED
- Mater Misericordiae University Hospital resubmitted data from 2019 to April 2025 as they excluded Smithfield Injury Unit data from their ED extract.
- Data relates to average in hours.
- Admissions include the following Discharge Destinations - Admitted to Ward, Discharged to Clinical Decision Unit (CDU) and Referred to Acute Medical Assessment Unit (AMU).



I trust this is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

John Smith
Assistant National Director
Access and Integration

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