

By email to: RuairiOMurchu@oireachtas.ie

25th September 2025

Mr. Ruairí Ó Murchú T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Re: Parliamentary Question 47625/25 To ask the Minister for Health the steps being taken to ensure that there is no overcrowding at the emergency department at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital in Drogheda; and if she will make a statement on the matter.
-Ruairí Ó Murchú

Dear Deputy Ó Murchú,

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 HSE Dublin and North East Health 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, 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 is planning for the future to safeguard against the increasing demand from its growing catchment area. Anticipated population growth, particularly among those aged over 75, along with any potential reconfiguration of acute services, highlights the need to expand the hospital's capacity and capability. To meet this challenge, a number of projects have been and continue to be developed;

- 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 since April, 2025.
- Ground Floor West GFW 18 bed inpatient ward. Planning permission granted Q3 2024. Phase one construction (Q4 2024). Operation, Q1, 2026.

There has also been an introduction of additional consultant coverage during weekends and extended consultant presence on weekdays and public holidays. Expanded specialist availability to support inpatient care and consultations. Enhanced access to key diagnostics, including imaging, at weekends to accelerate treatment pathways.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Stephanie Dunne
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