



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive



Rannog na nOspidéalGéarmhíochaine  
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
An tAonad 4A , An Foirgneamh Dargan  
Ceathrú Heuston Theas, BÁC 8

Acute Hospitals Division  
Health Service Executive  
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12<sup>th</sup> February 2018

Deputy Louise O'Reilly  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ 6214/18**

**\* To ask the Minister for Health the number of times full capacity protocol was implemented at hospitals across the state in 2017, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**- Louise O'Reilly.**

Dear Deputy O'Reilly,

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. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Each Hospital Site and Group strive at all times to have the systems and processes in place to support the steady state within sites which is said to exist when demand and capacity for acute inpatient care, both current and predicted unscheduled and scheduled care is being managed such that there is timely access to emergency (unscheduled) and scheduled care.

In the event that this is not so at a particular time /day then the local escalation plan containing the steps in the National System Wide Escalation Framework is invoked. The National Escalation Framework consists of a tiered and incremental suite of actions to be adapted and implemented in hospitals with an Emergency Department and the wider local health economy as part of a multi provider system response; same was issued to the system in late 2015.

The full capacity protocol which is the last escalation step in the National Framework is deployed in each hospital depending on the capacity and demand within their respective Emergency Departments. I list below the number of times the full capacity protocol (in accordance with the National Escalation Framework) was reported at each hospital in 2017. We do not record the length of time each site remains at FCP on each occasion.

	<b>Hospital</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Times in FCP</b>
<b>Children's Hospitals Group</b>	Temple Street Children's Hospital	2017	3
<b>Dublin Midlands Group</b>	Naas General Hospital	2017	219
	Portlaoise	2017	167
	St. James Hospital	2017	40
	Tallaght	2017	181
	Tullamore	2017	189
<b>Ireland East Group</b>	Mater	2017	10
	Mullingar	2017	116
	Our Lady's Hospital, Navan	2017	12
	St Luke's Hospital, Kilkenny	2017	239
	St. Vincent's University Hospital	2017	1
	Wexford General Hospital	2017	65
<b>RCSI Group</b>	Beaumont Hospital	2017	150
	Cavan General Hospital	2017	4
	Connolly Hospital	2017	68
	Our Lady of Lourdes, Drogheda	2017	75
<b>Saolta University Health Care Group</b>	Galway University Hospital	2017	298
	Letterkenny University Hospital	2017	242
	Mayo University Hospital	2017	187
	Portiuncula University Hospital	2017	91
	Sligo University Hospital	2017	46

<b>South South West Group</b>	Cork University Hospital	2017	199
	Mercy University Hospital, Cork	2017	12
	South Tipperary General Hospital	2017	306
	University Hospital Kerry	2017	0
	University Hospital Waterford	2017	327
<b>UL Hospitals Group</b>	Limerick	2017	294

I trust this answers your question to your satisfaction.

Yours sincerely,

*Grace Rothwell*

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**Grace Rothwell**  
**Head of SDU**  
**Acute Hospitals Division**