

For Written Answer on : 18/09/2018
Question Number(s): 518,519 Question Reference(s): 37497/18, 37498/18
Department: Health
Asked by: Gerry Adams T.D.

QUESTION

* To ask the Minister for Health his plans for the 2018 winter initiative; and the additional resources which will be put in place for services in County Louth as part of the initiative
- Gerry Adams T.D.

For WRITTEN answer on Tuesday, 18 September, 2018.

* To ask the Minister for Health his views on the claim by an organisation (details supplied) that the Health Service Executive cannot outline plans for the 2018 winter initiative; and the reason no plan has been outlined by the Health Service Executive to date
- Gerry Adams T.D.

For WRITTEN answer on Tuesday, 18 September, 2018.

REPLY

Tackling overcrowding in EDs is a key commitment of this Government. I understand that preparations and planning have already begun at hospital and local level. My Department is working with the HSE to ensure that these local and regional plans are consolidated and supported through policies and plans at national level to ensure the most effective response to the winter challenges to unscheduled care provision.

Against this background, I am currently in the process of meeting with the chairs of the hospital groups and the chief officers of the community healthcare organisations to receive a briefing on their plans to respond to expected peak demand during the coming winter months.

For Written Answer on : 18/09/2018
Question Number(s): 520 Question Reference(s): 37499/18
Department: Health
Asked by: Gerry Adams T.D.

QUESTION

To ask the Minister for Health his plans to recruit the 169 vacancies in emergency departments across the State; the locations in which these vacancies exist; the reason these

posts are vacant despite funding being made available; and when he expects these posts to be filled

REPLY

As Emergency Department attendances continue to rise, Emergency Departments are under increasing pressure to meet this new level of demand and ensure the provision of timely safe and effective care for patients. A considerable number of patients presenting to the Emergency Departments are frail or acute patients that often require admission. However, acknowledging this, the number of nurses employed in Emergency Departments had increased from 1,231 at end 2015 to 1,500 in September 2018, representing an increase of 269 or 22%. While the vacancies extend to all Emergency Departments, albeit in small numbers, it should be noted a significant number of these vacancies are currently being filled through agency staff and overtime working arrangements.

The HSE remains committed to filling these vacant posts on a permanent basis and have undertaken a number of national and local recruitment campaigns. In addition to this the HSE is also in the process of offering all graduate nurses and midwives contracts upon registration with NMBI, the nursing regulator.
