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***Launch of "Staffing Needs for Emergency Departments in Ireland"***

The Irish Association for Emergency Medicine has today launched a position paper on the Medical Staffing of Irish Emergency Departments. For many years the Association has developed policies on various aspects of Medical Staffing but this position paper represents the first comprehensive analysis and makes definitive recommendations on the totality of Medical Staffing for Irish Emergency Departments.

In recent years there has been much comment and opinion on Emergency Department staffing, much of which has been ill-informed. This position paper details the minimum staffing required for Emergency Departments of different sizes and with different expectations of how services should be delivered. The figures represent the **minimum** number of medical staff both Consultant and non-Consultant required to achieve given levels of service provision.

The IAEM also recognises that it is not possible to deliver comprehensive emergency services on the 35 hospital sites that currently have Emergency Departments. The paper recognises that there is a need for rationalisation but any Emergency Department left open to accept emergency patients after such rationalisation must have the defined minimum staffing outlined in the position paper.