



Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.

123 St Stephen's Green,

Dublin 2,

Ireland.

www.iaem.ie

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IAEM welcomes new focus on busyness of Ireland's Emergency Departments

The Irish Association for Emergency Medicine notes with interest the recent [statement by the Minister for Health, Dr Leo Varadkar TD](#), regarding the days Ireland's Emergency Departments (EDs) are at their busiest. The statement followed briefings and data provided by the Special Delivery Unit and suggests that EDs are most crowded on Wednesdays.

In EDs across the country, the busiest days of the week for **new patient attendances** are Monday and Tuesday with Wednesday, in fact, being significantly less busy. The reason that EDs are particularly crowded by mid week is that planned/elective activity is deliberately concentrated early in the week which is the very time EDs are naturally at their busiest. Not surprisingly, this means that by Wednesday the likelihood of a patient who requires emergency admission getting a hospital bed is much less than it is at the weekend when elective activity doesn't generally take place.

Inpatient boarder numbers i.e. the number of admitted hospital inpatients waiting on ED trolleys for a hospital bed, which are rising significantly at present, are independent of ED performance and it is therefore important that hospital and system failings which give rise to ED crowding are not confused with genuine ED busyness related to managing new emergency attendances.

President:

Mr Mark Doyle FRCSI, FCEM
Consultant in Emergency Medicine.
Waterford Regional Hospital,
Dunmore Road,
Waterford,
Ireland.

Secretary:

Mr Cyrus Mobed FRCSI, DSM
Consultant in Emergency Medicine.
South Tipperary General Hospital,
Clonmel,
Co. Tipperary
Ireland

Treasurer:

Dr David Menzies FCEM, Dip Med Tox, DMMD, Dip IMC (RCSEd)
Consultant in Emergency Medicine.
St. Vincent's University Hospital,
Elm Park,
Dublin 4,
Ireland.

Tel No: +353 51 842627

Fax No: +353 51 848550

Tel No: +353 52 6177987

Fax No: +353 52 6177149

Tel No: +353 1 2214207

Fax No: +353 1 2213346