



Tallaght
University
Hospital

Ospidéal
Ollscoile
Thamhlachta

An Academic Partner of Trinity College Dublin

23rd May 2024

Deputy Jim O'Callaghan, TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 22917/24 - *To ask the Minister for Health the reason the Pathfinder programme based at Tallaght Hospital has been wound down; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

Dear Deputy O'Callaghan

I am writing in response to the above PQ in relation to the Pathfinder Service in Tallaght University Hospital.

The Pathfinder Service introduced in collaboration with the National Ambulance Service since October 2022. In 2023 the service managed 698 call in total with 58% of all calls involving a call to the patient's residence in the community with over half of those patients being treated in the community and not requiring transport to the Emergency Department. The funding of this service was to be provided to Tallaght University Hospital by the National Ambulance Service via the HSE Operations. Since the establishment of the service in 2022 Tallaght University Hospital has not received funding.

Due to the current guidance on spending, the Hospital was not in a position to continue running the service without a confirmed funding source. The Service will cease operation on Friday 31st May 2024

Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

MR JOHN KELLY
DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE