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20 December 2019

Deputy Stephen Donnelly, TD
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Donnelly,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to this Department for response.

52249/19

To ask the Minister for Health the percentage occupancy rate in public residential care units for the most recent calendar month available and for the previous eleven months in tabular form

Long stay residential care for older people is provided in a range of public, voluntary and private facilities throughout the country. With regard to the HSE Public Residential Beds, a monthly audit takes place in respect of occupancy of the beds which are receiving funding through the Nursing Home Support Scheme. Occupancy levels vary from centre to centre and can also vary from month to month for some of the reasons outlined below. A consistent occupancy level of 100% is not a realistic target for residential centres due to the nature of their admissions and discharges to these centres. At present the average NHSS occupancy rate in the public residential beds is 94%.

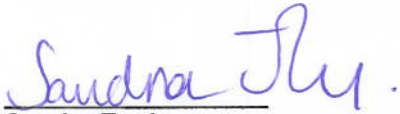
It should be noted, under the Nursing Home Support Scheme, the choice of nursing home to provide long stay residential care services lies with the applicant – who may choose either a public or private facility.

Hereunder you will find the occupancy rates from January 2019 to October 2019 in tabular form.

Occupancy Rate NHSS Public Units only	
Month	Occupancy
Jan-19	95%
Feb-19	94%
Mar-19	94%
Apr-19	94%
May-19	94%
Jun-19	94%
Jul-19	94%
Aug-19	94%
Sep-19	94%
Oct-19	95%

I trust this clarifies the situation.

Yours sincerely,



Sandra Tuohy
Assistant National Director – Operations
Services for Older People