



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive



National Services
Dr Steeven's Hospital
Dublin 8

14th February 2019

Deputy Louise O'Reilly
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 5051/19

*** To ask the Minister for Health the amount spent under the winter plan purchasing additional capacity in private hospitals; the number of and the length of time beds were purchased for use; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

- Louise O'Reilly

Dear Deputy O'Reilly,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

As part of the HSE Winter Plan 2018/2019 arrangements were put in place with private providers in terms of access to inpatient beds for post-trauma surgery patients and for stepdown patients to have a positive impact on flow in our hospitals. Based on previous experience it is accepted that the private sector has been best placed to provide such support.

The Winter Plan targeted nine hospital sites, along with their associated Community HealthCare Organisations (CHO) with a particular focus on a four week period, from 17th December 2018 to 13th January 2019 – subsequently extended for a further two weeks.

The targeted sites and CHOs were asked to identify and submit details of proposed measures which would positively impact their performance during the Winter period. The targeted sites were Tallaght University Hospital, St. Vincent's University Hospital, the Mater Hospital, Galway University Hospital, Cork University Hospital, University Hospital Limerick, Midland Regional Hospital Tullamore, Waterford University Hospital and Naas General Hospital.

The use of private capacity was managed and arranged locally over the focus period. A review of the Enhanced Measures undertaken during this period is currently underway and will confirm what private capacity was used during this time.

The table below outlines the amount of private capacity as identified per site as an enhanced measure.

| Site | Details of Additional Private Capacity |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Mater University Hospital | Purchase of bed days from private hospitals – 60 bed days/week for 4 weeks |
| Tallaght University Hospital | 3 NH Beds Christmas period (2 weeks) |
| St Vincent's University Hospital | Access to beds in SPVH to enhance flow. 10 beds/week for 4 week period |
| Cork University Hospital | Additional Private Capacity 15 beds x 4 weeks 10 Private Nursing Home beds for 4 week period. |
| Naas General Hospital | Access to 12 nursing home beds for duration of focus period |

I trust this answers your question to your satisfaction.

Yours sincerely,



Sonya Cotter
Head of SDU
National Services