



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

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Ms. Mary Butler TD,  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

23<sup>rd</sup> July 2019

**PQ 29164/19 \* To ask the Minister for Health the status of the replacement and refurbishment of 90 community nursing units announced on 26 January 2016; the funding allocated to each project in 2019; and the date on which each of the projects will be complete and operational - Mary Butler**

Dear Deputy Butler,

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.

The HSE provides residential care services across a number of settings including centres that are required to be registered with HIQA. These centres provide almost 5,000 public long-stay beds as part of their service provision. A programme of capital works has been underway over the past decade to improve environmental conditions in recognition of the fact that many centres featured buildings with poor environment, significant multi-occupancy bedrooms and insufficient living space when considered against Residential Care regulations.

In the first phase, a systematic approach was taken to deal with risk related issues such as fire prevention etc. In 2016, the Government provided a multi-annual funding package of €500m over the period 2016-2021 to replace or refurbish residential care centres to comply with the regulations. The HSE is actively implementing this Capital Plan with many centres now having reached a compliance stage. Please see attached information sheet.

There remain some significant developments to be achieved over the coming years, particularly where larger centres need to be replaced. As part of the funding package, a PPP arrangement is required to replace a number of centres and the PPP process is progressing with planning permission being sought for such centres before the end of year.

The programme has, and will, take account of changes in the intervening period of time particularly in relation to construction inflation costs, site selection changes, scope variance etc. In all approximately 90 centres required upgrading or replacement which represented the majority of the centres in question. This significant redevelopment programme represents the largest capital investment in this area of service provision in recent times. The HSE will continue to monitor and ensure that projects are complete in a timely manner and within the available budget in any given year.

Yours sincerely,

**Jim Curran**  
Head of Estates