



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Príomhoifigeach ECSP Ceantar 8  
Baile Átha Cliath & Lár Laighin  
Oifig an Cheantair  
Bóthar an Ardáin  
An Tulach Mhór  
Co Uíbh Fhailí

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30<sup>th</sup> July, 2019

Deputy Gerry Adams  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**RE PQ 26402/19: To ask the Minister for Health the staffing levels at the Cottage Hospital, Drogheda further to recent local media reports; and the demand for services from the local acute hospital.**

Dear Deputy Adams,

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

The staffing levels for the Cottage Unit 2 (14 beds) are 2 staff nurses and 3 Health Care Assistants (HCAs) up until 17:00 hrs then 1 Staff Nurse and 2 HCAs up until 20:00 hrs. Overnight there is 1 Staff Nurse and 1 HCA. The Clinical Nurse Manager works 5/7 days. The Person in Charge is also based in the Cottage.

Since 01 June 2018, Unit 1 has been closed due to insufficient demand for beds. There is currently no demand therefore no requirement to open Unit 1. Unit 2 has 14 beds in use and the average length of stay is 18 days. When we receive a referral from Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital we assess the client to ensure we can provide the care they require to facilitate their return home within 30 days, which is the maximum length of stay.

Since January 2019 there has been 143 referrals from Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital. All referrals are assessed and those residents who meet the criteria for admission are accepted when a bed becomes available. The Cottage also accept referrals from the community and other services (e.g. Our Lady's Hospital, Navan and Beaumont Hospital)

I trust the above is in order but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

Pat Bennett  
Chief Officer  
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation