



29<sup>th</sup> May, 2019

Deputy Louise O'Reilly, TD  
Dáil Eireann  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2.

**Re PQ:** 20969/19

To ask the Minister for Health the number of addiction beds in the health service; and his plans to increase the number

Dear Deputy O'Reilly,

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

The current National Drugs Strategy "Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery A health-led response to drug and alcohol use in Ireland 2017-2025" identifies that since 2007 the number of residential beds has increased significantly, largely due to the increased provision of beds in community-based residential facilities. Additional HSE funding over the past number of years has resulted in an increased number of residential addiction beds providing treatment and aftercare services. As of the end of 2018, the HSE estimated (including private provision) 793 residential beds, comprising 19 inpatient unit detoxification beds, 127 community-based residential detoxification beds, 4 adolescent residential detoxification beds, 625 residential rehabilitation beds and 18 adolescent residential beds.

It is acknowledged that there is a need to provide wider geographic access to addiction services and to continue to diversify the range of treatment options available to meet current and emerging needs. As part of the service plan commitments for 2019, the HSE plans to commission additional capacity in the region of 40 beds. This includes a mixture of stabilisation, step-down and recovery beds.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Joseph Doyle  
National Planning Specialist

