



Head of Social Care
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare
Health Service Executive
Model Business Park
Model Farm Road
Cork Eircode: T12 HT02

Oifig Cúraim Shóisialta
Cúram Sláinte Pobail Corcaigh Ciarraí
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
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Bóthar na Modh Feirme
Corcaigh Eircode: T12 HT02
T: 353 (0)21 4923854

7th November 2019

Minister Brendan Griffin T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ 44198/19:

“To ask the Minister for Health the position regarding the opening of additional beds at a facility (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Details supplied: What is the anticipated timeframe for the process leading to and including the opening of the beds, the precise details of the intended staffing measures, the number of beds to be opened and if he will make a statement on the matter. (West Kerry Community Hospital, Dingle).

PQ 44216/19:

“To ask the Minister for Health if the embargo on the recruitment of healthcare assistants at a community hospital (details supplied) in County Kerry will be lifted to fill vacant posts and allow the return of staff on career breaks; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Details supplied: West Kerry Community Hospital, Dingle, Co. Kerry

PQ 44217/19:

“To ask the Minister for Health if additional staff will be recruited at a community hospital (details supplied) in County Kerry to cover annual leave and short and long-term sick leave; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Details supplied: West Kerry Community Hospital, Dingle, Co. Kerry

PQ 44220/19”

“To ask the Minister for Health the reason bed capacity at a community hospital (details supplied) in County Kerry has reduced from 43 to 39; if additional resources will be deployed immediately to return bed capacity to 43; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Details supplied: West Kerry Community Hospital, Dingle, Co. Kerry

Dear Minister Griffin,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

There are 46 beds open at West Kerry Community Hospital, with the potential to open a further 8 beds in the future.



While we planned to open a number of additional beds at West Kerry Community Hospital on a phased basis, we have unfortunately faced challenges in recruiting the extra nurses we need. Increasing capacity at West Kerry Community Hospital remains a priority for us, and we continue to make intensive efforts to recruit. The most recent recruitment campaign was last month (September 2019). Every effort has been made to recruit the necessary staff, and we have run three recruitment campaigns in the last year alone. Additional beds cannot open until we recruit the necessary number of staff.

There is no national recruitment embargo or moratorium, there is a priority requirement for all HSE services to maintain, or get to, an affordable staffing level that is sustainable in 2019 and 2020, while also prioritising the delivery of safe services. In light of this, the HSE has introduced control measures relating to staffing and recruitment (including the return of employees on career breaks) to ensure that they live within the available resources provided to them. The control measures in place are not affecting West Kerry Community Hospital as all posts have already been approved. The issue is purely a difficulty in recruiting staff.

We understand the importance of West Kerry Community Hospital to the local community, and excellent care provided by the staff there. We will continue to work to extend the services there.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Gabrielle O'Keeffe
Head of Social Care,
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare

