



Office of A.N.D. Older People and Palliative Care - Strategy
Services for Older People
HSE Community Services Building
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3rd January 2020

Deputy Barry Cowen
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Cowen,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to this Department for response.

PQ: 47257/19

To ask the Minister for Health the number of dementia specific spaces in nursing home facilities here by county, by public and private nursing homes, respectively in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Persons with Dementia can access both long stay and short stay public residential beds. At the 30th November 2019, there were a total of 4,952 long stay beds and 1,871 short stay **public Beds** which are utilised for patients over 65 including those with Dementia. In particular the short stay beds provide a range of services such as 'step up/step down' care, intermediate care, rehab and respite care which are used in a flexible manner to meet local needs at any given time. A person with dementia can be facilitated in a regular respite beds while dementia specific respite beds are normally allocated to persons with high end challenging dementia type illness.

Respite beds are an essential component to ensuring older people can be cared for in their community and close to their carers. They also offer additional assistance to families and carers as well as assisting with avoidable acute hospital admissions. Respite Care is provided in a number of different ways and settings across the health system to provide support for Carers of older people or other persons with care needs in the home including those with Dementia.

The below table provides a breakdown of dementia specific beds per Community Health Organisation for both long stay and short **public beds**:

Dementia Beds:

	NHSS Bed:	Short Stay Beds:	
Area	No of Specific Dementia Beds	No of General Respite Beds	No of Specific Dementia Respite Beds
CHO 1	99	69	11
CHO 2	24	46	0
CHO 3	10	54	1
CHO 4	61	73	4
CHO 5	54	50	3
CHO 6	14	27	0
CHO 7	56	37	10
CHO 8	52	30	9
CHO 9	0	15	0
	370	401	38

The National Dementia Strategy was published in December 2014. The aim of the Strategy is to improve dementia care so that people with dementia can live well for as long as possible and can have services and supports delivered in the best way possible. The Strategy emphasises that most people with dementia live in their own communities and can continue to live well and to participate in those communities.

We will continue work with services to develop more integrated home care supports which will include the provision of respite care and long stay care to the Person with Dementia and their Carers.

Yours sincerely,



MICHAEL FITZGERALD
A.N.D. Older People
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