



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive



Naas General Hospital
Naas, Co. Kildare

11th January 2021

Reada Cronin, TD
Kildare North Constituency,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

RE: PQ 44497/20

RE: To ask the Minister for Health the plans in place in terms of beds and staffing to meet a possible Covid-19 surge at Naas General Hospital post-Christmas 2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Cronin,

In relation to the above query, I can confirm that the hospital has a Covid-19 Action Plan and a Winter Operational Plan in place, which includes items in relation to unscheduled care/patient flow and staffing.

In relation to bed capacity, the plans include contingency measures to be put in place to increase bed capacity when required and where staffing levels allow.

In relation to staffing, I can confirm that the levels of all categories of staff in Naas General Hospital are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Recruitment and retention, and the ability to obtain suitably qualified staff to fill specific vacancies, continue to be a challenge for all hospitals including Naas General Hospital and this can impact on an increased usage of agency staff. The hospital is continuing to explore all options to recruit certain groups of staff, including recruitment campaigns in conjunction with HBS Recruit and the Dublin Midlands Hospital Group.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Alice Kinsella,
General Manager
Naas General Hospital