



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Head of Service -Older People
South East Community Healthcare
Lacken, Dublin Road
Kilkenny
R95NV08

24th June 2020

Mr. Mattie McGrath T.D.
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 10692/20

To ask the Minister for Health the number of extra respite beds being provided across south County Tipperary following the closure of St. Brigid's Hospital; the locations of these respite beds; the facilities accommodating the additional beds that would normally be accommodated in St. Brigid's; the way in which these facilities have space and capacity to provide additional accommodation; the locations of the three hospice beds previously located at St. Brigid's being provided; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy McGrath,

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

I have reviewed that matter and the following is the position.

St. Brigid's Hospital provides convalescent, respite and palliative care services. In the current Covid-19 pandemic public health emergency, St. Brigid's has been designated as a "step down" Covid-19 care facility to serve the South Tipperary area.

In the interim palliative care beds continue to be provided in St Theresa's Hospital Clogheen and Cluain Arann in Tipperary town. In addition the HSE and Home Care team are working together to provide supports (where appropriate) to palliative care patients in their own homes at this time.

As in other areas, scheduled respite services are currently temporarily paused due the Covid-19 emergency. At present time emergency respite continues to be provided in St. Theresa's Hospital Clogheen and Cluain Arann in Tipperary town.

Personnel from Services for Older People South East Community Healthcare are currently working with national services to facilitate the re-opening of these services taking account of ongoing guidance from Public Health. South East Community Healthcare is presently examining the resumption of all services relating to Older People across the South East which will include St. Brigid's Hospital.

I trust that this is of assistance. Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara Murphy". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Ms. Barbara Murphy
Head of Service for Older People
South East Community Healthcare