



Dearadh agus Nuálaíocht Chliniciúil; Oifig an Príohoifigeach Cliniciúil  
Ospidéal Dr. Steevens, D08 W2A8  
R: [clinicaldesign@hse.ie](mailto:clinicaldesign@hse.ie) T: 01 635 2000

Clinical Design & Innovation; Office of the Chief Clinical Officer  
Dr Steevens' Hospital, D08 W2A8  
E: [clinicaldesign@hse.ie](mailto:clinicaldesign@hse.ie) P: 01 635 2000

30<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Deputy Louise O'Reilly, TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**RE: PQ 10951/20**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of stroke unit beds before Covid-19; the number of stroke unit beds now that hospitals are operating on reduced capacity as per the two metre rule; the number of stroke beds if the two metre rule was reduced to one metre; the associated costs of keeping stroke unit bed capacity and then ensuring the appropriate number of stroke beds for the population on the basis of recommendations contained in the UK national clinical guidelines for stroke; and if he will make a statement on the matter**

Dear Deputy O'Reilly,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in relation to the above parliamentary question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have consulted with the National Clinical Programme for Stroke on your question and have been informed that the following outlines the position.

There are 210 designated acute stroke beds across acute hospitals. The management of acute stroke remained an urgent medical priority during the Covid-19 response and every effort was taken to maintain designation of acute stroke beds and the integrity of specialist stroke multidisciplinary teams including early supported discharge teams.

The issue of application of the 2 metre rule and how it will impact capacity is one that will apply to all specialties across all inpatient and outpatient services nationally. As required, the National Clinical Programme for Stroke will engage with all key stakeholders with respect to the needs of stroke patients across the continuum of care with respect to capacity planning in line with public health recommendations.

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,

**Patricia Gilzenan O'Neill**  
**General Manager**