



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

27 May 2020

Deputy Anne Rabbitte TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

Rannan na nOspideil Ghearmhíochaine  
Aonad 4A – Áras Dargan  
An Ceantar Theas  
An Bothar Mileata  
Cill Mhaighneann  
BÁC 8

Acute Operations  
Health Service Executive  
Unit 4A - The Dargan Building  
Heuston South Quarter  
Military Road  
Kilmainham  
Dublin 8.

**PQ 4437/20** \* *To ask the Minister for Health the stock levels of medical oxygen the HSE has in each hospital in tabular form; if additional medical oxygen has been ordered; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

Dear Deputy Rabbitte,

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

I am advised that the majority of medical oxygen that is supplied to our hospitals is delivered in bulk liquid format (Bulk Medical Liquid Oxygen) to on-site storage tanks. The storage capacity of these tanks is listed in the attached table. In addition, all hospitals hold a number of oxygen cylinders as an emergency source of supply, to facilitate maintenance work and for patient transportation.

The HSE has recently carried out a review of the storage capacity of Bulk Medical Liquid Oxygen across all acute hospital sites. This review has confirmed that these had sufficient oxygen storage capacity to meet the projected COVID-19 demand. Additional storage capacity has been installed on some sites to further enhance the resilience of the medical oxygen systems.

BOC Healthcare, who are the contracted supplier for Bulk Medical Liquid Oxygen, manage the delivery of oxygen to on-site storage tanks and have advised the HSE that:

“Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, BOC Healthcare has worked with the HSE to ensure critical supplies of oxygen are maintained to meet expected increases in demand. Throughout the crisis, we are happy to confirm that there has been no shortage of oxygen to any hospital or critical care facility.”

BOC have also stated that:

“BOC increased the frequency at which we re-filled hospital storage tanks and all Hospitals were maintained with a minimum oxygen tank level of 60%+”

The HSE continues to monitor oxygen consumption at our hospitals and is working closely with our suppliers to ensure adequate supplies. In addition, the HSE continues to work with our hospitals and suppliers, to enhance the resilience of our medical oxygen systems”.

I trust this is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,



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**Carol Ivory**  
**General Manager, Acute Operations**