



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

3rd November, 2020

Deputy David Cullinane 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 31258/20* *To ask the Minister for Health the number of sub-acute, AMU, acute inpatient and critical care beds in the public health system on 1 January 2020, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

PQ 31259/20* *To ask the Minister for Health the number of sub-acute, AMU, acute inpatient and critical care beds, disaggregated, in the public health system on 1 October 2020, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

PQ 31260/20* *To ask the Minister for Health the number of funded sub-acute, AMU, acute inpatient and critical care beds provided for in Budget 2020, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

PQ 31261/20* *To ask the Minister for Health the number of funded sub-acute, AMU, acute inpatient and critical care beds provided for in Budget 2021, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

PQ 31262/20* *To ask the Minister for Health the number of sub-acute, AMU, acute inpatient and critical care beds not provided for in Budget 2021 which will be open on a temporary basis in either 2020 or 2021, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

PQ 31264/20* *To ask the Minister for Health the number of beds in the public hospital system and the average percentage of beds closed at any one point throughout 2020 due to cleaning, IPC or other requirements; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

PQ 31265/20* *To ask the Minister for Health the average percentage of beds closed in the public health system at any one point in 2019 and 2020 due to a lack of staff; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

PQ 31269/20* *To ask the Minister for Health the number of each of acute inpatient, sub-acute, AMU, and critical care beds in the public health system prior to Budget 2021; the estimated number in the public health system by year end 2021 if full implementation of Budget 2021 measures take place; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

PQ 31325/20* *To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide a breakdown of the 1,146 acute inpatient beds announced in Budget 2021 between funded permanent beds and temporary beds respectively; if he will provide the baseline figure this will be added to and to isolate the end of year 2021 baseline figure it will be raised to with this addition; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

PQ 31326/20* *To ask the Minister for Health the number of permanent and funded and temporary acute inpatient beds, respectively in the public hospital system on 13 October 2020 in tabular form; the number for each projected to be reached on 31 December 2020; the number for each projected to be reached for target year end 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

PQ 31387/20* *To ask the Minister for Health the number of funded acute beds in the public system at the end of each of the years 2016 to 2019 and projected for the end of 2020 and 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

PQ 31388/20* *To ask the Minister for Health the number of baseline acute beds in the public system at the end of each of the years 2016 to 2019 and projected for the end of 2020 and 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

PQ 31389/20* *To ask the Minister for Health the number of staffed acute beds operational and available in the public system on the first day of the month for each month in 2019 and up to September 2020, by month in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

PQ 31390/20* *To ask the Minister for Health the number of funded sub-acute beds in the public system at the end of each of the years 2016 to 2019 and projected for the end of 2020 and 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

PQ 31391/20* *To ask the Minister for Health the number of baseline sub-acute beds in the public system at the end of each of the years 2016 to 2019 and projected for the end of 2020 and 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

PQ 31392/20* *To ask the Minister for Health the number of staffed sub-acute beds operational and available in the public system on the first day of the month for each month in 2019 and up to September 2020, by month in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

PQ 31428/20* *To ask the Minister for Health the number of acute beds in the system excluding critical care at the end of 2019; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

PQ 31429/20* *To ask the Minister for Health the number of acute beds in the system excluding critical care on 22 June 2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

PQ 31430/20* *To ask the Minister for Health the number of acute beds in the system excluding critical care on 13 October 2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

PQ 31431/20* *To ask the Minister for Health the estimated number of acute beds excluding critical care projected to be in the system at the end of 2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

PQ31395/20 *To ask the Minister for Health the number of staffed adult ICU beds operational and available in the public system on the first day of the month for each month in 2019 and up to September 2020, by month in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -David Cullinane*

PQ 31393/20 *To ask the Minister for Health the number of funded adult ICU beds in the public system at the end of each year from 2016 to 2019 and projected for the end of 2020 and 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

PQ 31394/20 *To ask the Minister for Health the number of baseline adult ICU beds in the public system at the end of each year from 2016 to 2019 and projected for the end of 2020 and 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

PQ 31406/20 *To ask the Minister for Health the number of baseline paediatric beds in the public system at the end of each year from 2016 to 2019 and projected for the end of 2020 and 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

PQ 31263/20

To ask the Minister for Health the number of sub-acute, AMU, acute inpatient, and critical care beds inclusive of funded and permanent, non-funded and temporary and closed in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 31432/20

To ask the Minister for Health the estimated number of acute beds excluding critical care projected to be in the system up until the end of the Winter Plan, that is, to the end of April 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 31433/20

To ask the Minister for Health the estimated number of acute beds excluding critical care projected to be in the system up until the end of 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 31523/20

To ask the Minister for Health the total number of recurring fully funded and staffed inpatient, acc, amu and day case beds for each at year end in 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 and estimated for 2020 and projected at year end 2021, in tabular form assuming full implementation of Budget 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 31524/20

To ask the Minister for Health the number of staffed and available, disaggregated by temporary and recurring funded, inpatient, acc, amu and day case beds, for each at year end 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and estimated for 2020 and projected at year end 2021, in tabular form assuming full implementation of Budget 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 31525/20

To ask the Minister for Health the number of staffed and available inpatient, amu, acc and day case beds in the public system on the first day of the month for each month in 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 and for each month up to September 2020, by month in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 31526/20

To ask the Minister for Health the number of recurring funded and temporary inpatient, amu, acc and day case beds in the public system on the first day of the month, disaggregated by type and funding, for each month in 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 and for each month up to September 2020, by month in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 31527/20

To ask the Minister for Health the classifications and typologies of beds in acute hospitals and their interchangeable terms such as acute, inpatient, sub-acute and day case which may be used from time to time; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 31679/20

To ask the Minister for Health the number of funded inpatient acute beds in the public system at the end of 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and projected for the end of 2020 and 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 31680/20

To ask the Minister for Health the number of baseline inpatient acute beds in the public system at the end of 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and projected for the end of 2020 and 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 31681/20

To ask the Minister for Health the number of staffed in-patient acute beds operational and available in the public system on the first day of the month for each month in 2019 and for each month up to September 2020 by month in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above 35 Parliamentary Questions, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the questions and I propose to provide a singular response as the questions relate to the same issue.

I wish to advise that the HSE does not currently record data and information in the format that you have sought in some of your questions.

The Open Beds Report provides an outline of the average numbers of open and available inpatient beds and day beds/places in the acute hospital system on a monthly basis. The Open Beds Report is published on the Department of Health Website and can be accessed using the link below.

https://www.gov.ie/en/publications/?q=open+beds+report&sort_by=relevancy&type=general_publications&organisation=department-of-health

1. Context

The HSE Acute Business Information Unit collects and reports on the average number of funded acute inpatient beds and funded acute day-case beds/places open and available for use, by Specialty, during each monthly reporting period. Separately, the HSE collects data on the bed complement; however, this data does not take account of factors such as temporary bed closures. Accordingly, for the purpose of answering the Deputy's questions it is considered that the Open Beds Report is the more relevant source.

The Open Beds Report, includes all activity associated with acute inpatient and day-case beds as follows:

- Acute surgical and Medical beds
- Critical Care beds (ICU/HDU/Coronary Care Unit)
- Maternity beds
- Paediatric beds
- Acute Psychiatry beds
- AMAU overnight beds

The report records bed days available and bed days used by Specialty. Accordingly, it is not possible to separate out critical care beds or overnight AMAU beds within the beds available figure due to the nature of how the data is returned. The bed complement data provides this information and this information is set out in Table 1 below.

Exclusions from the Open Beds Report are AMAU treatment places, Sub Acute beds and Community Psychiatry beds. While in some cases these beds are located on an acute campus these beds are not available to patients for acute care. These are recorded separately as they are not Acute in-patient beds. AMAU same day treatment spaces are operational for part of the day to assess patients. The number of beds/spaces comprehended by these categories are set out below:

- The number of AMAU same day treatment spaces as of December 2019 was 281.
- The number of sub-acute and Community Psychiatric beds as of December 2019 were 636.

All data related to beds at this time is collected monthly on an aggregated basis and as such it is not possible to report the data for a specific day. However, the Open Beds Report shows the average daily number of funded beds open and available during any given month.

The number of funded available beds can fluctuate month to month dependent on factors such as bed closures or increased funded capacity. There are usually a higher number of closures in December each year as there is generally less elective care delivered over the Christmas period.

2. Funded Capacity 2016-2019

Methodologies in collecting data have been revised and improved over a number of years. Comparing year on year data will include changes to data collection over this time.

Table 1 below sets out the average in-patient beds available for the years 2016 to 2019 at the end of each year. This demonstrates an increase of 488 average inpatient beds available from 2016 to 2019.

Table 1

Month/Year	Average Inpatient Beds Available*	Paed Beds Available (included in In-patient numbers)	Average Day-Case Beds / Places Available	Adult Critical Care (included in in-patient numbers)**
December 2016	10,501	1,147	2,137	234
December 2017	10,704	1,154	2,177	238
December 2018	10,824	1,144	2,247	246
December 2019	10,988	1,148	2,297	255
June 2020	11,051	1,080	2,272	281
August 2020	11,113	1,064***	2,233	283

*Includes critical care/AMAU overnight/Acute Psychiatry/Maternity/Paediatric

** Source: HSE Critical Care Program

*** Temporary re-designation of Tallaght Paediatric beds to adult

3. 2020/2021 Acute In-patient Beds

2020

At the beginning of 2020, there were 10,733 in-patient beds available (excluding critical care). The expected number of funded In-patient beds to be added to the baseline in 2020 is 704. This includes the following:

- 40 beds at South Tipperary General Hospital that were funded as part of 2019 Estimates but opened during 2020.
- 664 beds opened during 2020 as follows;
 - 426 temporarily funded beds brought on-stream this year as part of the Winter Plan 2019/2020 using NTPF funding and funding for the COVID response. The funding announced in the budget will allow these beds to be maintained permanently.
 - 238 additional beds funded under the Winter Plan.

This will bring the number of in-patient beds open at the end of 2020 to 11,437. It should be noted that the activity associated with a number of the beds funded by NTPF may be more appropriately coded as sub-acute activity. An exercise is underway with HPO to determine the appropriate coding of such activity when the beds are funded permanently.

Note: The Acute Hospital system has experienced a significant increase in the number of bed closures due to COVID-19 this year. These closures relate to management of infection outbreaks, necessary refurbishment to meet COVID requirements and increased staff absence due to COVID. In September 2019 the weekly average of Inpatient beds closed was approximately 98. This figure has increased to a weekly average of 340 Inpatient beds in September 2020.

2021

It is planned that a further 260 beds will open between January 2021 – March 2021 approved as part of the Winter Plan 2020/2021.

A further 222 beds are expected to open between April – December 2021 which are funded as part of the Estimates 2021.

In summary, the 1,146 additional beds approved under the Winter Plan 2020/21 and Estimates 2021 are funded until end 2021.

The expected number of Acute Inpatient beds available for deployment by end of 2021 is 11,919. It is anticipated that the total number of beds available will fluctuate from time to time due to social distancing and infection control measures that may be required at individual sites.

4. Critical Care

The 2021 budget provides for the increase of adult critical care beds from 255 to 321 by the end of 2021. This represents a total increase of 66 adult beds.

a. 40 adult beds are funded temporarily in COVID; these are now funded through the Estimates on a full year basis.

b. 26 additional adult beds are funded in the Estimates

This will result in a total increase of 66 ICU new beds

Current status

As of October, 2020 there are 31 of the 40 beds open bringing the number of critical care beds to 286.

By the end 2020, we will have opened 37 beds open bringing the total 292.

By the end 2021, we plan to open the remaining 29 beds bringing the total to 321.

Yours sincerely,



Ms. Angela Fitzgerald
Deputy National Director
Acute Operations