



Office of A.N.D. Older People and Palliative Care - Strategy  
Services for Older People  
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22<sup>nd</sup> September 2020

Deputy David Cullinane,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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

**PQ Ref: 21115/20**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of residential care beds added since the capacity review to date by year; the number of additional beds needed to reach the targets set by the review; the cost of each additional bed in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

The Department of Health undertook an independent Capacity Review (CR) of the evolving Irish healthcare landscape covering the period 2017 to 2031. This involved assessing current levels of activity/utilisation of services, and drivers of demand in order to identify future demand and capacity requirements across these health services until 2031. The Capacity Review in the main projects Residential Care numbers as a total figure and in determining the split of long stay to short stay beds it is important to note from the document itself:- *'Due to the lack of available granular data for residential care', the bed numbers provided in the report 'are based on blended data comprising long-term and short-term public and private residential care.'* And on that basis the report identified the 2016 position as a total Community Bed provision of 30,000 beds.

In determining projections the CR also allowed for the variation in the split of long stay to short stay beds:- *'It is worth noting that it is difficult to forecast long term and short term beds separately as these beds can be interchangeable. Therefore, the split between long and short term beds should be treated with caution. In light of this, multiple data sources were used to disaggregate this split.'* On that basis the Capacity Review identified a projected requirement of **32,686** beds by 2020.

The HSE undertook a bed census in June 2020 which incorporated the current no. of public residential care beds and included a number of variables to determine the no. of private residential care beds in operation. The result of this indicated that as of June 2020, there are approx. **33,242** Residential Care Beds. Based on the Capacity Review report projected requirement of 32,686 beds by 2020, the current numbers of 33,242 are in line with the projections. See summary table below.

**Summary Table Capacity Review 2016 – 2021 projection and Actual 2020 Baseline data.**

<b>Capacity Report 2016</b>	<b>CR projections Beds required by 2020</b>	<b>Actual Beds 2020</b>	<b>Variance 2020 Actual to CR 2021 projection</b>
<b>30,000</b>	<b>32,686</b>	<b>33,242</b>	<b>556</b>

It should be noted that the HSE does not maintain a census of private bed capacity but access to information on this matter can be gained from the HIQA website where a record of registered beds by residential units is maintained.

Yours sincerely,



**Dr. PJ Harnett,**

**A.N.D. Strategy and Planning, Services for Older People & Palliative Care**