



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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.

30 September 2020

Deputy Bernard J. Durkan
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2.

PQ 24091/20 * *To ask the Minister for Health the number of hospital beds available to the public hospital sector; the number in the private sector; the extent to which both can combine to provide the required accommodation for the various categories of patients awaiting treatment; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

Dear Deputy Durkan,

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.

Please see attached report from the HSE Acute Business Information Unit showing available beds in public acute hospitals from January to July 2020.

As you are aware, one of the actions in the Government's response to Covid-19 in March 2020 was to put in place the arrangement with the private hospitals to use their facilities as part of the public system, to provide essential acute hospital services for the duration of the emergency. Underpinning the arrangement was the principle that private hospitals will effectively operate as public hospitals and that all patients treated in the private hospitals were public patients for the duration of the arrangement.

Further, under the terms agreed with the private hospitals, provision was made to ensure continuity of care for patients who were in a private hospital or receiving a course of treatment when the arrangement was agreed.

At the same time, following NPHEP recommendations, only critical essential work could be undertaken in any hospital. Therefore, there was a significant reduction in all scheduled care activity across all health services including outpatient clinics, inpatient and day case procedures.

On 29th May, 2020, the government decided to conclude the partnership arrangement on 30th June 2020 and mandated the HSE, together with the Department of Health and the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform to negotiate a new, separate deal with the private hospitals.

In addition, the HSE is currently refining its requirements in relation to securing capacity and services to compensate for the shortfall in capacity in public hospitals, due to the safety guidelines developed in line with the NPHE's Expert Advisory Group's recommendations. As part of a wider strategy to address this shortfall, the HSE is in the process of tendering for services to be provided by private hospitals.

Therefore, as the new agreement with the private hospitals is still being negotiated, number the beds in the Private Hospitals that will become available to the HSE under the new agreement is not yet know and we are unable to provide the data you requested in relation to Private Hospitals at this time.

I trust that this is of assistance

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'TD', written over a horizontal line.

Trina Doran
General Manager, Acute Operations