



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.

01 October 2020

Deputy Réada Cronin
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2.

PQ 26294/20 * *To ask the Minister for Health the number of additional ICU beds that have been provided since March 2020 nationally and in Naas General Hospital, respectively; the number of new hospital consultants appointed since March 2020 nationally and in Naas General Hospital, respectively; the equivalent figures in relation to additional ICU beds and new consultants planned to the end of 2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

Dear Deputy Cronin,

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.

In March 2020 and in response to Covid 19 ,HSE received revenue funding for six months to support the upgrading of critical care beds from High Dependency to Intensive Care. Funding was also provided for an additional 42 critical care beds as set out in the attached table 1. The majority of these beds are now open (n= 31) with recruitment plans in place to open the remaining (n=11) critical care beds in early 2021 for the following:

St Vincent's University Hospital	2 beds
Cork University Hospital	3 beds
Mater Misericordiae University Hospital	6 beds

With specific reference to Naas General Hospital, the hospital is funded on an annual basis for four critical care beds.

It should be noted that earlier this year and as part of critical care surge plans, acute hospitals augmented their critical care capacity through use of other areas within their hospitals. This included the use of operating theatres and recovery areas. Staff were also redeployed from other areas and trained to support the provision of additional critical care in response to the demand.

With regard to the number of new Hospital Consultants appointed since March 2020, the HSE National Doctors Training and Planning have provided the following information.

From data extracted from DIME (Doctors Integrated Management E-system) as at 01 September 2020, the number of consultants appointed nationally since March 2020 is 84 and one of these consultants has a commitment to Naas General Hospital. These figures include all tenures.

Please note that DIME is dependent on clinical sites inputting details on their consultant workforce and therefore there may be variances and gaps in the data supplied to that held within clinical sites. As DIME is a live system it must be noted that there can be variances in the figures published dependent on the run date of the report as entries can be made with a retrospective date.

I trust that this is of assistance

Yours sincerely,



Eileen Ruddin
General Manager, Acute Operations

Table 1- Schedule of 42 Critical Care Beds Funded for Six Months to support Covid 19

HospitalGroup/Hospital	Additional Critical Care Funded March 2020
Children's Health Ireland	2
CHI at Crumlin	2
Dublin Midlands Hospital Group	5
MRH Tullamore	3
St. James's Hospital	2
Ireland East Hospital Group	11
Mater Misericordiae University Hospital	9
St. Vincent's University Hospital	2
RCSI Hospitals Group	5
Beaumont Hospital	3
Cavan General Hospital	1
Connolly Hospital	1
Saolta University Health Care Group	8
Galway University Hospitals	5
Letterkenny University Hospital	1
Portiuncula University Hospital	1
Sligo University Hospital	1
South / South West Hospital Group	7
Cork University Hospital	3
Mercy University Hospital	1
South Tipperary General Hospital	1
UH Kerry	1
UH Waterford	1
UL Hospitals Group	4
UH Limerick	4
Total Additional Adult	40
Total Additional Paediatric	2