



Deputy Carol Nolan,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

02/03/2021

## RE PQ 8111/21

### Question

To ask the Minister for Health if a review has been carried out of the storage capacity of bulk medical liquid oxygen across all acute hospital sites; if there is sufficient oxygen storage capacity to meet the projected Covid-19 demand; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Carol Nolan

### Response

Deputy Nolan,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) 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.

The storage capacity of bulk medical liquid oxygen (MLO) across all acute hospital sites was reviewed at the beginning of the pandemic in March of 2020. At that time, storage capacity was assessed as sufficient to meet the projected demand as per the modelled profile of disease progression.

Also, at that time, the HSE sought and received assurances from their bulk medical liquid oxygen supplier (BOC Healthcare Ireland) that the supply chain for MLO in Ireland was secure and adequate to meet the projected demand. An ongoing investment programme is in place to further enhance the capacity and resilience of our oxygen systems.

In so far as this is reasonably possible; the HSE is satisfied that our oxygen systems have adequate capacity to meet the demand of any upcoming surge.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact the Office of the Head of Procurement on (01) 635 2688 or via [ohop@hse.ie](mailto:ohop@hse.ie).

Yours sincerely,

