



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Office of the Head of Service for Older People
South East Community Healthcare
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22nd June 2021

Mr. Jackie Cahill TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 25289/21

To ask the Minister for Health the annual number of persons in South County Tipperary who require end of life care in a hospital environment; if he will provide the source of this data; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 25290/21

To ask the Minister for Health the number of palliative care support beds that a population such as South County Tipperary should have based on best practice and Government, HSE and his Department's policy; if he will provide the source of this data; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 25291/21

To ask the Minister for Health the number and location of the existing palliative care support beds in south County Tipperary excluding Waterford or Dungarvan; if he will provide the source of this data; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 25292/21

To ask the Minister for Health the details of the two palliative care support beds in Tipperary town; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 25294/21

To ask the Minister for Health his views on whether two palliative care support beds will be sufficient to meet the needs of patients in South County Tipperary in ten years' time; if not, the areas from which the additional beds will be sourced from; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Cahill,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions, which were submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

I have reviewed the matter and the following composite reply outlines the current position.

Palliative Care services are developed in line with national policy, Slaintecare, the HSE's Palliative Care Development Framework and the Palliative Model of Care. HSE palliative care strategy includes the development of specialist palliative care inpatient units with a view to ensuring individuals and families have access to inpatient hospice care within their region.

The provision of Level 2 beds within Community Hospitals/Units within Services for Older People is to support the Home Care Team. The HSE wishes to confirm the following Level 2 palliative care beds currently provided in the South Tipperary area.

Unit/South Tipperary	Number of Level 2 Palliative Care Beds
St Anthony's Unit Clonmel	2
St Theresa's Hospital Clogheen	2
Cluann Arann Community Nursing Unit Tipperary	2
Total	6

South East Palliative Care Centre (SEGCC)

In addition the newly built Regional Specialist Palliative Care Centre (Inpatient and Day Services) Dunmore Wing on the grounds of University Hospital Waterford is currently being commissioned and is due to be open for admissions on a phased basis from Quarter 3 2021. It will provide 20 specialist palliative care in-patient beds (Level 1 Beds) and will serve the population of the South East (including South Tipperary). This South East Palliative Care Centre (SEGCC) will be the regional hub for Specialist Palliative Care in the South East supporting integration of services across acute and community.

The HSE advise that the number of people who required End of Life care varies annually the following number are the persons that required Level 2 palliative care beds in South Tipperary in 2020.

Unit	No. of Persons who required Level 2 Beds in 2020
St Theresa's Hospital Clogheen	18
Cluann Arann Community Nursing Unit, Tipperary	11

The HSE continues to work closely with the South Tipperary Hospice Home Care in relation to palliative care services including Level 2 palliative care bed provision in the area. Importantly it should also be noted that for some individuals and their families their preference is to remain in their own homes (and particularly during these times) and the HSE and the Hospice / Home Care team continue to provide supports accordingly.

At present the current provision of Level 2 beds in the South Tipperary area is considered sufficient in conjunction with other Home Care Services and the opening of the South East Specialist Inpatient Palliative Care Unit (Level 1 Inpatient and Day Services) later in 2021. However please note that this will be kept under review as appropriate.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Barbara Murphy
Head of Service for Older People
South East Community Healthcare