

1st December 2021

Deputy Pa Daly, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann
Dublin 2

PQ ref 56448/21

“To ask the Minister for Health the number of each type of bed, that is, geriatric, acute and short stay at HSE-provided community and district hospitals in County Kerry in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter”.

Dear Deputy Daly,

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.

Public residential care is provided in a wide range of community hospitals/community nursing units, geographically spread across the country. Community hospitals provide long stay residential care in line with the Nursing Home Support Scheme (NHSS) as well as providing a wide range of other services including short stay beds for respite, convalescence and step down rehabilitation. Our short stay beds are often a stepping stone to discharge from the acute beds in University Hospital Kerry. Beds within these units are not classified as acute beds as the units provide residential, community support, palliative and respite care.

The table below lists the Community Hospitals/Community Nursing Units in County Kerry and the current total number of long stay and short stay beds in each:

Unit	Total Long Stay Beds	Total Short Stay Beds *
Caherciveen Community Hospital	28	5
Kenmare Community Hospital	12	16
Killarney Community Hospital	69	37
Listowel Community Hospital	20	13
Tralee Community Nursing Unit	43	0
West Kerry Community Hospital	34	12
Total	206	83

* Short stay bed categorisation includes specialist geriatric rehabilitation beds, respite care beds, transitional care beds and convalescence beds.

Works are underway in a number of our Community Hospitals across the Cork Kerry Community Healthcare region to reconfigure multi-occupancy bedrooms in order to enhance our residents' privacy and dignity and support physical distancing to minimise the risk of transmission of infection. Refurbishment works (i.e. new windows, heating systems, flooring, kitchen and laundry areas and outdoor spaces) are also being undertaken to further enhance the quality of life for current and future residents of our Community Hospitals/Community Nursing Units. Some of these projects may temporarily impact bed numbers while works are being carried out.

I trust this clarifies the position. If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Jackie Daly
Head of Service for Older People

