



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.

18th October 2021

Deputy David Cullinane
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2.

PQ 49462/21 *To ask the Minister for Health the number of acute inpatient beds staffed, funded and opened or to be opened by the end of 2021; the breakdown of these beds by multi-occupancy ward compared to single occupancy room; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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.

The HSE received funding approval in 2021 to open 1,146 acute beds. A number of these beds were already open in 2020 and funded under the HSE's Winter Plan or on a once off basis by the National Treatment Purchase Fund (NTPF). The 2021 budget provided funding on a recurring basis for the beds that were previously funded by the NTPF.

There is a total number of 795 acute beds open up to the 30th September, 2021. A further 143 acute beds are expected to open before year end which will result in additional acute bed capacity of 938 beds in 2021. The opening of the remaining acute beds is subject to staffing.

There are a number of international recruitment campaigns underway to recruit staff across a number of categories including nursing and medical staff. The recruitment clearance and staff orientation processes is time consuming and adds to delays from initial job offer to appointment.

The additional bed capacity is welcome having regard to the pressures experienced by hospitals resulting from increased ED attendances and admissions, as well as infection, prevention and control requirements during the covid-19 pandemic.

I trust that this answers your question.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Angela Fitzgerald', written in a cursive style.

Angela Fitzgerald
Deputy National Director
Acute Operations