



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.

28<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Deputy Roisin Shortall  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 42977/21** *To ask the Minister for Health the number of intensive care beds that have been provided since he announced the expansion of critical care capacity to 446 beds in December 2020; the locations in which these beds have been provided; the timescale for providing the outstanding beds; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

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Dear Deputy Shortall,

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 recognition of the significant and sustained effect of the Pandemic on both unscheduled and on planned work, the HSE Service Plan 2021 set out specific actions and funding to support improved access. The HSE's critical care bed target was to deliver an additional 66 critical care beds by 31 December 2021 bringing the total to 321 beds. There are currently 42 of these 66 beds open, which is a total of 297 critical care beds now open.

An additional 24 critical care beds have yet to be opened to achieve the target of 321. These include the following critical care beds;

- St. Vincent's University Hospital, there are 3 beds are not yet open, the hospital is aiming to have the beds open in Quarter 4 of 2021.
- Cork University Hospital and St. James' Hospital both have 1 bed not yet open, it is expected that these will be opened in October 2021.

- Tallaght University Hospital - 12 beds. These beds are due to open in December 2021. This is dependent on a build programme and it was delayed earlier in the year. Recruitment is underway to support the opening of the beds when they are completed.
- Mater Misericordiae University Hospital - 8 beds. This is part of a modular build which is scheduled for completion in December 2021.

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.

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**Angela Fitzgerald**  
**Deputy National Director**  
**Acute Operations**