



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.

4th February 2022

Deputy David Cullinane
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2.

PQ 5071/22 *To ask the Minister for Health the number of baseline acute inpatient beds open and funded including those which have been funded, opened and fully staffed but are closed for illness or infection prevention reasons at year end 2021.*

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 NSP 2021 provided permanent funding for an additional 1,146 acute inpatient beds. This includes 82 sub-acute beds under the governance of acute hospitals, formerly funded by NTPF, and 36 additional day-case beds.

By December 2021, we had opened a total of 813 beds from within the target of 1,146. This includes the 118 sub-acute and day-case beds as set out above; therefore, the expected net increase in acute in-patient beds is 699.

During the pandemic hospitals have had a higher number of beds closed for infection control and staffing reasons. Pre-pandemic Hospitals would typically have approximately 100 bed closures at any given time. However, in December 2021 there was an average of 363 beds closed.

The reasons for bed closures include the following:

- Infection control
- Refurbishment
- Staffing shortages

I am attaching a profile of the additional beds opened to date but currently closed.

I trust that this answers your question.

Yours sincerely,

Angela Fitzgerald
Deputy National Director
Acute Operations

	December 2021 baseline
Bed Category	No. of beds
Total Inpatient beds	11,448
Minus: Adult Critical Care beds	297
Subtotal - inpatient beds (excluding closed beds)	11,151
Plus: Average no. of closed beds in December 2019 and December 2021	363
Total no. of inpatient beds	11,514
No. of additional beds commissioned up to 31st Dec 21	
Paediatric Critical Care	4
Total no. of beds commissioned to 31st December 2021	813
Less: Sub acute beds under the governance of acute hospitals	118
Additional acute inpatient beds	699
Total no. of beds	11,514