



**Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta
Géaroibríochtaí**

Aonad 4A, Áras Dargan, An Ceantar Theas,
An Bóthar Míleata, Cill Mhaighneann, Baile
Átha Cliath 8, D08 NN9V

**Office of the National Director
Acute Operations**

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24th August 2022

Deputy Thomas Gould

Dáil Éireann

Leinster House

Dublin 2.

Re: Further information relating to your PQ 41172/22 - To ask the Minister for Health the estimated average capital and current costs respectively of an acute bed.

Dear Deputy Gould,

Dear Deputy Gould,

A response to your PQ 41172/22 issued to you on the 17th of August 2022 with an undertaking that we would revert in respect to the estimated average capital cost of an acute bed.

I am advised by HSE Capital and Estates, that a large number of factors have a bearing on the “estimated average capital cost” of an acute hospital bed. These include such considerations as to whether the beds are provided by way of new construction or refurbishment; the extent of enabling, decant and site preparation works; extent of IPC measures; scope of development and economies of scale; site specific considerations including planning conditions; and the scope of related ancillary upgrade of refurbishment works necessary to the successful operation of the beds provided.

In the context of the above, current external factors such as high inflation rates, supply chain issues, the war in Ukraine and the continuing impact of Brexit also influence the capital costs of projects. For high level budgetary purposes only, a cost range in the order of €700k - €900k per bed would be considered a reasonable current capital cost for an acute hospital bed as of Q3 2022. It should be noted that this high level budgetary cost range per bed relates to the in-patient / ward accommodation of the acute hospital setting, and does not account for key clinical departments such as radiology, operating departments, neurology etc.; which are project specific and sit outside of this cost range.

I trust this is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



Carol Ivory
General Manager,
Acute Operations



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17th August 2022

Deputy Thomas Gould

Dáil Éireann

Leinster House

Dublin 2.

PQ 41172/22 - To ask the Minister for Health the estimated average capital and current costs respectively of an acute bed.

Dear Deputy Gould,

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.

I am advised by the Healthcare Pricing Office that the average daily running cost of an in-patient hospital bed across acute hospitals can be calculated from the HSE annual pricing cycle as performed by the HSE Healthcare Pricing Office (HPO). This is €1,029 per day and represents the in-patient cost of a hospital bed including costs associated with:

- Clinical staffing
- Theatres
- Laboratories
- Non-clinical staffing
- Cleaning, maintenance and other running costs

The €1,029 is a ‘fully-absorbed’ cost which means it includes all treatment and care costs (such as diagnostics, theatres etc.) as well as running costs such as heating and lighting, servicing equipment etc. but excludes capital and depreciation. It does not include other associated hospital costs such as day case, outpatient and emergency department costs. The cost is calculated from costings submitted by hospitals under the Activity Based Funding program and is based on 2019 data, the latest year for which information is available. This cost is a national average across all nights, all hospitals and all types of inpatient cases from the most routine to

Please note however that critical care bed costs are considerably higher, with Intensive Care Unit beds having a higher cost than High Dependency Unit beds.

With respect to your request for average capital cost of an acute bed, HSE Capital and Estates have been requested to advise in this regard and this information will be provided to you on receipt.

However, the cost of providing additional acute inpatient capacity would be impacted by costs relating to design, construction, equipping, and all other capital costs associated with the project. It may also require significant enabling works e.g. decant costs as well as other accommodation that



may be required to support this additional capacity e.g. Diagnostics, theatre space etc. Capital costs are subject to variations with some sites requiring more investment depending on location, project scale, complexity of the site, existing infrastructure, site conditions, design etc.

I trust this is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Carol Ivory'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the 'y'.

Carol Ivory

General Manager,

Acute Operations