



Ceannasai Seirbhíse – Daoine Aosta  
Cúram Sláinte Pobail Chabháin,  
Dhún na nGall, Liatroim, Mhulneacháin, Shligigh  
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Aras na mBricí Dearga  
Páirc Gno Fhionasclainn, Finonasclainn,  
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16<sup>th</sup> June, 2022

David Cullinane T.D.  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 30677/22

**“To ask the Minister for Health the estimated cost full year cost of recruiting 11 additional full-time nurses for Lifford Community Hospital, County Donegal; 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. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

In 2021 Lifford Unit was due to be reregistered for a further 3 year period similar to other units in Donegal, however HIQA had concerns regarding the suitability of the premises to deliver quality care. The Older People Services engaged with HIQA and it was agreed that that no further admissions would take place until upgrading works were complete. These include roof repairs, fire safety upgrading, infection control and extensive refurbishment. From the 6.8.2021 the Unit closed to facilitate these essential works. Meetings between National Older Persons Service, National Estates and CHO1 took place and it was agreed that a Business Plan for Capital submission would be made for Lifford. Business case for both an 18 bed refurb and a 21 bed refurb were submitted in early 2022, however with further appraisal it was decided the most appropriate solution would be a 25 bed build on a green field site. The final updated costed Business Case including the schedule of accommodation is nearing completion and will be submitted to the National Capital & Property Steering Committee for their consideration

Lifford currently remains closed, however in respect of your request for costings for 11 staff nurses, I can confirm that the total cost for 11.00 wte Staff Nurses based on Oct. 2021 Pay rates is **€610,437** ie. €549,695 Pay + €60,471 prsi :-

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

**Frank Morrison**  
Head of Service Older Persons