



Easlamhannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive



Ospidéal Ollscoile Chorcaí  
Cork University Hospital

**Cork University Hospital,  
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Ireland.**

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Date: 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022

PQ – 15055/22

Deputy Holly Cairns  
Dail Eireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**“To ask the Minister for Health the steps he is taking to ensure the availability of respite beds in Bantry General Hospital”**

Dear Deputy Cairns

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.

St. Josephs Residential Unit comprises of a number of service beds;

- Long Term Residential
- Palliative Care
- Respite x4 bed (shared accommodation)

I can confirm that whilst both Long term and Palliative Care services are operational, unfortunately the units Respite service has not yet recommenced at the present time.

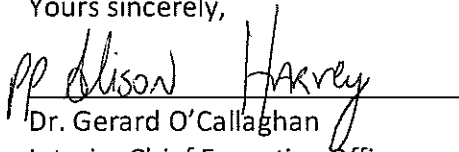
St Joseph’s Unit is in a unique position of being the only Residential unit nationally to be located within a Covid-19 receiving hospital. Following the most recent Risk Assessment undertaken by the hospital’s Infection Control team; a decision was arrived at to hold on reopening these beds

for the moment. It should also be noted that the unit unfortunately experienced a recent Covid-19 infection outbreak with a number of residents and staff testing positive.

This situation is under constant review and it is envisaged that the beds will become available once management are assured that in doing so will not present a risk of infection to the units long term residents.

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

Yours sincerely,

  
Dr. Gerard O'Callaghan  
Interim Chief Executive Officer