



**Head of Service for Older People  
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare**  
Health Service Executive  
Model Business Park  
Model Farm Road  
Cork Eircode: T12 HT02

**Cúram Sláinte Pobail Corcaigh Ciarraí**  
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Páirc Gnó Model  
Bóthar na Modh Feirme  
Corcaigh Eircode: T12 HT02  
**T: 353 (0)21 4923854**

9<sup>th</sup> June 2022

Deputy Brendan Griffin, T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 26910/22:**

**"To ask the Minister for Health the reason that staffing levels at West Kerry Community Hospital have not improved; the measures that can be taken to address this problem in order that more beds can be opened at the hospital to serve the west Kerry community and if he will make a statement on the matter".**

Dear Deputy Griffin,

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 coronavirus pandemic has had an impact on the recruitment and retention of nurses nationally and globally. Staff recruitment to West Kerry Community Hospital (WKCH), and other community hospitals in rural locations, presents particular challenges and extensive efforts continue, both locally and nationally, to attract potential candidates to these locations.

In an effort to fill posts and improve bed capacity at WKCH, Cork Kerry Community Healthcare continues to advertise for staff across a number of disciplines. Most recently, a local staff nurse recruitment campaign was launched to fill posts in County Kerry, including WKCH. These posts were advertised in the Kerryman newspaper and were also broadcast on Radio Kerry with a closing date of 7<sup>th</sup> June. Two additional Healthcare Assistants are currently in the process of being appointed to positions in WKCH.

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare continues its commitment to maintaining and increasing the staff complement at WKCH in order to optimise service provision for the local community. We endeavour to ensure that the maximum number of people that can be safely accommodated in WKCH are being accommodated. Local, regional and national campaigns will continue in an effort to attract staff.

I trust this clarifies the position. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

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Jackie Daly  
Head of Service for Older People

