



Bainisteoir Ginearálta,
Seirbhísí Cónaithe do Dhaoine Scothaosta

General Manager
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14th June 2022

Deputy Michael McNamara
House of the Oireachtas
Leinster House
Dublin 2

**RE: PQ Reference 27959/22:
To ask the Minister for Health, the plans, if any, that the HSE has to expand the level of respite care provided within the Rehabilitation Unit of St. Joseph's Hospital, Ennis, County Clare and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

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Dear Deputy McNamara,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly back to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question which you submitted to the Minister of Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The Rehabilitation Unit, St. Joseph's Hospital, Ennis, has 12 Rehabilitation beds under the Medical Governance of a Consultant Geriatrician and input of a multi-disciplinary team of Nursing and Allied Health professionals.

Rehabilitation to the Older Persons: The desired outcome of Rehabilitation is the improved quality of life, with optimal function and reduced disability of the individual with health conditions in interaction with their environment through the interventions of the multi-disciplinary team. The duration of Rehabilitation is based on the achievement of function and independence and varies with each individual.

Respite Care, on the other hand, provides short term care and relief for primary care givers. This may allow them to take a short break e.g., holiday. The duration of respite is normally 1-2 weeks and mainly consists of Nursing Care. Respite Services are not delivered by a Rehabilitation multi-disciplinary team but by a separate nursing staff. The number of Rehabilitation beds and Respite beds will remain the same within St. Joseph's Hospital at this time.

However, there is a new 100 bedded unit planned for St. Joseph's on a green site in the town of Ennis and planning application is due to be submitted. The 100 bedded unit will be a combination of Continuing Care beds, Palliative Care beds and Short Stay/Respite/Rehabilitation beds.

Yours sincerely,

Marie Gleeson

pp **Sheila Ryan**
General Manager, Older Persons Residential Services