



**Head of Service for Older Persons  
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare**  
Health Service Executive  
Caha House, Business & Technology Park  
Model Farm Road  
Cork Eircode: T12 XHT4

**Cúram Sláinte Pobail - Corcaigh & Ciarraí**  
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Teach Caha, Párc Ghnó & Teicneolaíochta  
Bóthar na Modh Feirme, Corcaigh  
**Tel: 021 4923854**

22<sup>nd</sup> November 2022

Deputy Thomas Gould, T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 56198/22:**

**“To ask the Minister for Health the reason that the 60 bed extension at Heather House Community Nursing Unit is yet to be operational; and when the extension will be operational”.**

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.

Heather House Community Nursing Unit (CNU) is a HIQA registered purpose built Older Persons Residential healthcare facility located on the grounds of St Mary’s Health Campus on the North-side of Cork City. Heather House CNU provides 24 hour nursing care to both male & female residents whose dependency ranges from low to maximum dependency levels/care needs. The CNU also offers palliative care. In November 2020 the HSE engaged in a plan to deliver an extension to the current unit to provide a 60 bed unit, with all rooms providing single occupancy, ensuite accommodation. The new development will facilitate Heather House’s emergence as one of the largest public units providing long term care beds in Cork.

Following contract completion, handover and commissioning of the new build, the new building must be registered with HIQA as per the legislation set out in Schedule 1 of the Health Act 2007 (Registration of Designated Centres for Older People) Regulations 2015, as amended. As the facility is a Registered Centre for Older People, an inspection by the regulator is required and we anticipate that this will take place before the end of November.

As part of the expansion plan for the centre, one of the centre’s existing units will be reconfigured to a Dementia unit which will provide 21 beds and that unit’s current residents will be accommodated in the new extension. Once the centre is registered, the HSE can admit residents and plans are in place to occupy the ground floor of the new extension initially with residents from the existing unit before year end. The HSE will then progress to admit new residents to the new build throughout Q1 2023.

Workforce planning is progressing across all staff disciplines to ensure the required complement and skill mix of staff is in place to facilitate the operational schedule for increasing occupancy.

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

