

1st November 2022

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

PQ ref 52364/22

“To ask the Minister for Health the current staffing breakdown at West Kerry Community Hospital; the way this compares with the numbers at the start of this year; if extra beds will be opened at the hospital; the specific efforts that are being made to recruit new nurses at the hospital including a breakdown of details of advertisements that have been made in 2022; 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.

West Kerry Community Hospital (WKCH) provides a valuable service to people living in the West Kerry area and Cork Kerry Community Healthcare is committed to increasing the staff complement at WKCH in order to augment service provision for the local community. Extensive efforts continue to recruit staff to WKCH and to overcome the challenges that recruitment to community hospitals in rural locations can present.

The below table sets out the current (October 2022) staffing breakdown at WKCH together with comparative data from January 2022:

Staff Grade	WTE – Jan 2022	WTE – Oct 2022	Increase
Director of Nursing*	1	1	0
Clinical Nurse Manager 2	2	2	0
Nursing Staff	12.7	15.5	+2.8
HCA's / Support	22.8	23.45	+0.65
Catering Staff	4.1	5.6	+1.5

- *This post is currently temporarily filled while a permanent post-holder is sought.*

Staffing levels have increased in WKCH across almost every grade since the start of 2022, following the numerous local recruitment campaigns that have been undertaken in the past year. The opening of additional beds at WKCH is a service priority and to this end we will continue to seek qualified and interested candidates within this geographical area to facilitate same.

The table below illustrates the recruitment campaigns which have been undertaken since October 2021 specific to West Kerry Community Hospital:

Date	Publication	Staff Grade
June 2022	The Kerryman	Staff Nurses
March 2022	West Kerry Live	Health Care Assistants
Feb 2022	West Kerry Live	Staff Nurses
Jan 2022	West Kerry Live	Catering Assistants
Nov 2021	The Kerryman	Health Care Assistants
Oct 2021	The Kerryman	Staff Nurses

Recruitment efforts will continue, both at a local and regional level, to increase the staff complement at WKCH so that an optimum service can be provided to the local community.

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

Yours sincerely,



Jackie Daly
Head of Service for Older People

