



Oifig an Stiúrthóra
Náisiúnta Cúnta Oibríochtaí
Pobail
Seirbhísí do Dhaoine
Scothaosta

Office of the Assistant National
Director – Community Operations
Services for Older People

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18th November 2022

Deputy Colm Burke,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Burke,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to this Department for response.

PQ: 22/52800

To ask the Minister for Health if he will set out in detail the number of additional step down-beds that will become available in each of the HSE operational areas from 1 November 2022, given that there will be increased pressures in the hospital services; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

The provision of short stay beds is an important component of multiple supports that support hospital egress. The National Office Services for Older People, Operations, oversees the public bed stock across all 9 CHO areas. These beds may be categorised as follows:

- Convalescent
- Assessment
- Transitional Care
- Rehabilitation
- Re-Enablement
- Respite
- Dementia Specific Respite
- Palliative

A number of these categories can be interchangeable for use in response to particular demands in residential care units at any given time, thus the total number of beds within any category can fluctuate up and down over any given period.

RCF's continue to provide services while undergoing refurbishment and reconfiguration works to meet HIQA standards, particularly SI293 and while continuing to manage the service through the Covid pandemic. These challenges may result in rolling temporary closures but due to accelerated Capital Investment Programme short stay beds are returning back into the service. Approximately 78 beds are expected to re-open across our CHO areas by year end.

CHO Area	No. of Beds	Due to re-open
CHO 1	23	Q4 2022
CHO 4	20	Q4 2022
CHO 5	15	Q4 2022
CHO 6	20	Q4 2022
Total	78	

To supplement temporary closures private beds are identified if necessary and funded nationally and through CHO local agreements to meet specific demands.

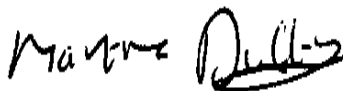
In addition to enhance short stay bed capacity 660 private short stay beds been added to the system in 2021 and 2022 to support hospital discharges and hospital avoidance with a further 42 scheduled to come on stream before the end of the year.

Step-down beds are also funded by Community Services with governance provided by Acute Care Services to support hospital egress.

CHO Area	Beds open YTD	Beds due to open Q4	Total
CHO 2	24	4	28
CHO 6	34	-	34
CHO 7	50	15	65
CHO 9	32	-	32
Total	140	19	159

The National Office Services for Older People Operations, continue to engage with local CHO areas regarding remedial plans to meet local challenges. Together with the Local Areas we are identifying where beds may be repurposed and occupancy maximised to support hospital egress as well as hospital avoidance.

Yours sincerely,



**General Manager Services for Older People
Community
Operations**