



**Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta
Géaroibríochtaí**

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16th May 2023

Deputy David Cullinane
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 19052/23

To ask the Minister for Health to provide an update on the replacement of multi-bed wards with single isolation rooms over the coming years, in tabular form. The number of single isolation units. The number of beds in multi-unit wards. The cost of and budget for the replacement programme and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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.

Unfortunately, we are unable to provide a breakdown of multi-occupancy and single rooms currently in our hospitals as this level of detail is not currently reported.

The replacement of multi-bed wards with single rooms is based on AMRIC (Antimicrobial Resistant and Infection Control) "Infection Control Guiding Principles for Buildings Acute Hospitals and Community Settings", HIQA's "National Standards for the prevention and control of healthcare associated infections in acute healthcare services", experience during the COVID pandemic, evidence based design, and also national and international best practice. In this regard a number of new projects being progressed consist mainly of single rooms, for example the new beds due to open at the Mater Hospital.

In respect of the cost for the replacement programme for high-level budgetary purposes, a cost range in the order of €750k to €960k per single room of in-patient accommodation may be considered appropriate; however, site-specific issues are in addition to this cost range.

I trust this response is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Jacqueline McNulty
General Manager Unscheduled Care
Acute Operations