



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

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

22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023

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

**PQ ref 6155/23:**

**“To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to reports that a unit (details supplied) in Cork has yet to open; and if he will make a statement on the matter”.**

**Details Supplied: The Dementia Unit in Heather House**

**PQ ref 6156/23:**

**“To ask the Minister for Health the number of beds in a unit (details supplied) in Cork; and if he will make a statement on the matter”.**

**Details Supplied: The Dementia Unit in Heather House**

Dear Deputy Gould,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions, 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. Completion in 2022 of an extension to the current unit provided a new 60 bed wing over 2 floors, with 30 beds on each floor. The new extension in Heather House opened in January 2023 with new admissions taking place thereafter.

A part of the plan for Heather House is to develop a 19 bedded dementia specific unit within the existing service. People with dementia have unique and complex needs, and units which provide dementia-specific care are designed to provide specialist long-term care to residents and to build on the strengths and retained abilities of people with dementia. Provision of these additional beds will offer further choice of long-term residential care for people with dementia across this region. The scope of works for the proposed Dementia Unit within Heather House has been extended and the Design Team is currently working on revised costings for this unit. Once same have been agreed, reconfiguration and refurbishment of the ground floor into a Dementia Unit will continue to progress.

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare is committed to the provision of long-term care solutions which are designed to comply with best practice architectural principles to address the complex and unique needs and preferences of people with dementia.

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

