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8th February 2023

PQ 3691/23: To ask the Minister for Health the number of staffed chairs available to deliver chemotherapy by month in each of the years 2019 to 2022, in tabular form.

Dear Deputy Shortall

The NCCP can provide the below information in relation to the number of day case beds (staffed chairs) to deliver Systemic Anti-Cancer Therapy (SACT –chemotherapy) for the years 2019-2022.

The NCCP engaged with and collected self-reported data from the 26 Systemic Anti-Cancer Therapy (SACT) hospitals to assess the capacity of day units delivering SACT services in 2020 pre and post COVID-19 restrictions. The self-reported hospital data details the number of day case beds available to deliver SACT nationally within this period. The data showed a 14% reduction in treatment day case beds as a result of social distancing measures implemented due to COVID-19 i.e. 369 day case beds reduced to 319 day case beds. Recent engagement with SACT hospitals and data collection by the NCCP show that available day case beds numbers have increased and are currently at 91% of pre COVID-19 reported figures.

The NCCP have engaged with SACT services to provide guidance and recommendations for future additional day case bed requirements. The NCCP understand that work is ongoing across services to increase capacity in line with these recommendations. Please see the below table for detail of self-reported day case beds numbers within SACT hospitals nationally as detailed above.

Table: SACT hospitals self-reported day case bed numbers

Hospital	Pre COVID-19: Jan 2020 day case bed numbers	Apr - 20 (COVID-19)	Jan 2023 day case bed numbers
Crumlin	13	11	12
Naas	6	5	4
St. James's	18	12	14
St. Luke's Rathgar	10	6	8
TUH	34	28	25
Tullamore	15	15	11
Mater	27	17	25
St. Luke's Kilkenny	10	10	6
St. Vincent's	19	19	16
Wexford	10	6	9*
Beaumont	24	22	23
Cavan	10	10	6
Connolly	5	5	6
Drogheda	7	7	7
Galway	22	16	27
Letterkenny	11	8	8
Mayo	10	10	11
Portiuncula	6	5	6
Sligo	10	8	8
CUH	16	16	15
Kerry	12	10	11**
Mercy	12	18	18
South Infirmary Victoria	16	16	16
Tipperary UH	10	8	7
Waterford	12	11	12
Limerick	24	20	24
	369	319	335***

*The number of day case beds varies from 7-9.

** The number of day case beds varies from 2-11.

*** This is the maximum number of day case beds available.

Yours sincerely,

Patricia Heckmann

Patricia Heckmann
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 National Cancer Control Programme

