



**Ceann Seirbhísí Daoine Scothaosta**

Limistéar Cúram Sláinte Pobail an  
Oirdheiscirt | Lacken |  
Bóthar Bhaile Átha Cliath | Cill Chainnigh |  
R95 NV08

**Head of Service Older  
Persons**

South East Community  
Healthcare Area | Lacken |  
Dublin Road | Kilkenny |  
R95 NV08

Tel: 056 7784319

28<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Mr. Michael Lowry, T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 13969/23**

**To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question Nos. 532 of 13 December 2022 and 528 of 5 December 2022, according to the these response, University Hospital Waterford will provide 20 Level 3 inpatient beds; it is also recommended in best palliative care practice that each level 3 bed have an equal number of Level 2 support beds in the region; according to the response, 5 level 2 palliative care support beds are located in Dungarvan, and 5 to 6 palliative care beds in south Tipperary; is it not opportunistic and prudent to increase the number of Level 2 beds in urban centre also, and increase the number of palliative care bed in Clonmel at the new development in St. Anthony's; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Lowry,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions, which was submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

*I have reviewed the matter and the following is the current position.*

I recently confirmed (to the Oireachtas Committee), provision of two Level 2 Palliative Care beds providing there is appropriate clinical governance within the new build of a 50 bed Community Nursing Unit that will replace St Anthony's Unit in Clonmel. This new build will also bring additionality of 32 beds to South Tipperary and is due to be completed late Quarter 3/ early Quarter 4 2024.

SECH Older Persons Services have recently reviewed the location of palliative care beds in South Tipperary and due to clinical governance matters one of the two beds in St Anthony's has transferred to the Cashel Residential Services. There is no loss to the overall bed base in Cashel Residential Older Persons Services and St Anthony's Unit. There continues to be 6 HSE level 2 palliative care beds across South Tipperary which is further complimented by the 20 bed Level 3 Palliative Care service in University Hospital Waterford.

Level 2 palliative care beds are provided in the context of services also available to palliative care individuals within SECH/CHO 5 i.e. the South East Regional Palliative Care Centre in University Hospital Waterford which provides 20 x Level 3 inpatient beds, which has the expertise of a specialist palliative care multidisciplinary team and are operating at full capacity.

Please see table below outlining the number and location of beds designated Palliative Care in South East Community Healthcare Area and managed through Older Persons Services.



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No. Palliative Care beds	Location	County
4	Carlow District Hospital	Carlow
2	Castlecomer District	Kilkenny
3	Gorey District Hospital	Wexford
5	Dungarven Community Hospital	Waterford
1	St Anthony's	Tipperary
1	Cashel Residential	Tipperary
2	Cluain Arann	Tipperary
2	St Theresa Clogheen	Tipperary

Therefore SECH/CHO5 currently meets the best palliative care practice recommendations as referenced in your parliamentary question.

SECH Older Persons will continue to monitor the distribution of Level 2 palliative care beds throughout the region and should need dictate will reconsider providing clinical governance can be maintained to ensure safe services. Furthermore, it should be noted that there continues to be capacity across the Palliative Care beds in South Tipperary.

It is understood that there are community requests to increase the number of Level 2 beds, however this cannot be assured given that provision is determined by need which including evidence of admission rates, bed capacity, population profile and will and preference of individuals across South Tipperary.

Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

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**Helen McDaid**  
**Head of Service Older Persons**  
**South East Community Healthcare**