18th May 2023

Deputy Rose Conway-Walsh TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 21153/23

To ask the Minister for Health the number of acute beds; the number per 1,000 of the population; and the number per 1,000 of the population over 65 years in each year since 2006, as national aggregate and by each CHO, in tabular form .

Dear Deputy Conway-Walsh,

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.

The number of acute beds as a national aggregate is reported by the OECD in 2020 as 2.9 beds per 1000 population in Ireland.   This does not, however, break down detail by Hospital Group or CHO area and this is not currently available for a number of reasons.   It should be noted that

- Some hospitals have national or regional specialty beds.
- Hospitals, dependant on location, have different age profiles.
- There are many variations by site including tertiary beds, Paediatrics, Maternity, Psychiatry, AMAU, step down beds etc so therefore it would be very difficult to apply regional comparisons.

I do, attach, for your information the average number of beds available from 2016 to March 2023 as requested. Please note this information has only been report/published since 2016 and I am therefore unable to provide the same information from 2006 as requested.

Please also refer to the footnotes in the data attached.

I hope this response is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Jacqueline McNulty
General Manager Unscheduled Care
Acute Operations