



12th May, 2023

Colm Burke, TD
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ: 21983/23

Dear Deputy Burke,

The Minister for Health has requested the HSE National Community Operations for Older People to respond directly to your Parliamentary Question;

To ask the Minister for Health if he will confirm whether his Department has engaged with the HSE with a view to increasing the number of contracted beds in private nursing homes in order to expedite the transfer of patients from hospital to private nursing home care; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Since early 2020, the HSE has purchased short stay beds in private nursing homes to support timely discharge of patients from acute hospitals when the acute phase of their care is complete. At this time, there are approximately 700 private nursing home beds contracted for short stay to facilitate patients returning home, or to long-term residential care.

HSE National Community Services for Older People are working with Acute Hospitals and HSE Procurement to develop a strategy to tender for the ongoing provision of short stay beds. It is hoped this tender will be live in the last quarter of 2023.

Yours sincerely,

Fiona Hammond
General Manager
Intermediate Care Lead
HSE Community Operations, Services for Older People

