



**Head of Service for Older Persons
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare**
Health Service Executive
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Cúram Sláinte Pobail - Corcaigh & Ciarraí
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Teach Caha, Párc Ghnó & Teicneolaíochta
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24th May 2023

Deputy Colm Burke, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann
Dublin 2

PQ ref 21984/23:

“To ask the Minister for Health if he will clarify the current position in respect of Clonakilty Community Hospital; if there are sufficient staff in place to enable all beds to be occupied; the number of beds that have remained vacant for more than four weeks at a time over the past 12 months; the action being taken to ensure that all beds are fully utilised throughout the year; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy Burke,

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.

Clonakilty Community Hospital is comprised of residential accommodation spread across four units and the centre is registered to provide long term, respite, transitional, palliative and dementia care to residents. In common with many of our community hospitals, Clonakilty Community Hospital has undergone significant change and reconfiguration recently to comply with specific regulatory compliance requirements and also to meet the changing needs of residents with regard to their complexity.

The bed capacity at Clonakilty Community Hospital will increase by 20 following completion of the hospital's new extension and this unit is currently awaiting HIQA registration. Once registered, the hospital's total capacity will be 108 beds. However, some of our rural hospitals have experienced challenges in recruiting healthcare staff - there have been enormous demands on the health service with nursing staff in particular being in demand to match all service requirements. Recruitment efforts are currently underway to optimise the services available to the local community while ensuring that the maximum number of people that can be safely accommodated at Clonakilty Community Hospital are being accommodated.

Infection Prevention and Control guidelines currently require hospitals to maintain designated isolation beds in the event of infectious outbreaks in order to protect both patients and staff. No other beds have remained vacant at Clonakilty Community Hospital for more than four weeks at a time over the past 12 months.

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

