



23rd May, 2023

Colm Burke, TD
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ: 21985/23

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 funding that can be provided to private nursing homes that provide contracted beds to care for patients who require a higher degree of care than that which is normally required in a nursing home setting; the number of additional contracted beds that will be put in place over the next 12 months in order to facilitate the transfer of patients from hospital settings; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

The National Transitional Care Funding Office continues to accept and fund applications for additional supports for those who require higher care needs. Higher care needs will ordinarily be identified when discharge planning with an acute hospital and a private nursing home. The acute hospital, working with Community Services will submit the application. This type of funding is agreed and approved prior to discharge based on the care need of the individual and will be monitored by Community Services to ensure the individual receives the appropriate levels of support.

In relation to the additional number of contracted beds planned for the next twelve months, at this time, there are approximately 700 private nursing home beds contracted for short stay to facilitate patients returning home or transitioning into long-term residential care.

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
HSE Community Operations, Services for Older People

