



30 June 2023

Deputy David Cullinane TD,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to this Department for response.

PQ 25354/23: To ask the Minister for Health his plans to expedite the provision of additional step-down care and rehabilitation beds to reduce the number of delayed transfers of care patients, which consistently total around 600, in order to ensure the efficient use of hospital beds; the number of additional step-down care and rehabilitation beds funded and opened in each year since the start of 2020, in tabular form; the number of additional step-down care and rehabilitation beds planned to open in 2023 and 2024, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

The HSE through the Urgent Emergency Care (UEC) Plan will include proposals to address community care beds provision. Further additionality, including rehabilitation beds will be determined as part of the development of the UEC plan.

Table 1 below shows 412 Intermediate Care Beds delivered to date under funding from Winter Plan/NSP 2021.

Table 1

Intermediate Care Beds			
2020	2021	2022	YTD 2023
172	140	81	19

Outlined on Table 2 below, A further 27 beds are due for delivery imminently with an additional 7 beds to follow but do not have a delivery date as of yet. Of the reported 412 beds above, 141 beds have been delivered by acute services.



Table 2



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 now over 720 private nursing home beds contracted for short stay to facilitate patients returning home.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely,

Patricia Whelehan,

Assistant National Director - Community Operations,

Services for Older People.