



**Head of Service for Older Persons  
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare**

Health Service Executive  
Caha House, Business & Technology Park  
Model Farm Road  
Cork Eircode: T12 XHT4

**Cúram Sláinte Pobail - Corcaigh & Ciarraí**  
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Teach Caha, Párc Ghnó & Teicneolaíochta  
Bóthar na Modh Feirme, Corcaigh  
**Tel: 021 4923854**

19<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Deputy Michael Healy-Rae. T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 15110/24**

**"To ask the Minister for Health when beds will be open (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter".**

**Details Supplied: "We have a situation in the District Hospital in Millstreet whereby 11 new ensuite hospital rooms are not opening similarly with the dining/living rooms. This is a national scandal, at a time when we have endless amounts of people waiting to avail of community services, when will these beds open?"**

Dear Deputy Healy Rae,

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.

In common with many of our community hospitals, extension and refurbishment works have been undertaken at Millstreet Community Hospital to comply with S.I. No. 293/2016 which will facilitate a move away from the 'open ward' model to more private rooms and will ultimately result in enhanced facilities for our current and future residents. Reconfiguration of multi-occupancy bedrooms supports our residents' privacy and dignity and also supports physical distancing of residents in order to minimise the risk of transmission of infection.

The works at Millstreet Community Hospital include construction of a single-storey extension to the existing hospital, consisting of 11 en-suite bedrooms, dining room, kitchen store and changing facilities, new extended day rooms, toilets, assisted bathrooms, administration offices, relocated staff changing, laundry room, plant room, meter room, new link corridor and secure garden courtyards and provision of a landscaped outdoor amenity.

Capital works on the new building are at snag stage and it is hoped Millstreet Community Hospital will be in a position to apply to register this new building with HIQA within the next 4 weeks. Compliance works to the existing building will then commence for a further phase of works. Subject to commissioning, handover and successful completion of HIQA registration, it is anticipated that the extended and refurbished hospital will be fully resourced and operational during Q4, 2024 pending maintenance of adequate staffing levels to deliver optimal care to our residents.

It should be noted that there have been enormous demands on the health service with nursing staff in particular being in demand to match all service requirements. Our priority is to ensure that the maximum number of people that can be safely accommodated in our community hospitals are being accommodated and that our Millstreet Community Hospital residents continue to receive the highest



standard of care. Recruitment efforts continue against the background of the current HSE recruitment pause and the significant challenges that recruitment to community hospitals in some of our more rural locations can present.

I trust this clarifies the position. If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



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Jackie Daly  
Head of Service for Older People

