



Oifig an Bainisteoir Ginearálta,  
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26<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Deputy Pearse Doherty

Via email only: [Pearse.Doherty@oireachtas.ie](mailto:Pearse.Doherty@oireachtas.ie)

**PQ ref 18579/24**

*“To ask the Minister for Health when the new Ballyshannon Community Hospital in County Donegal will become fully operational; the reason the hospital is not currently operational; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”*

Dear Deputy Doherty

I refer to your representation regarding the above matter, which has been forwarded to my office for response.

Having examined the matter, the following outlines the position.

The €36.7 million facility located at the site of the old Sheil Hospital in Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal accommodates 52 long-stay beds; 20 short-stay beds, providing convalescence, rehabilitation, respite and palliative care beds; eight dementia-specific assessment beds and a Day Hospital Service.

The new community hospital will provide in-house occupational and physiotherapy services to patients and residents that require these services. Additional supporting professional services will also be delivered at the hospital via Primary Care Services, including Speech and Language Therapist, Dietician, Podiatry, Tissue Viability Nurse Specialist, Dentistry, Audiology, Clinical Nurse Specialist Dementia, Psychiatry of Old Age and Social Worker, Advocacy and Spiritual services.

The hospital also features wildflower rooftop gardens, a collection of books spanning three centuries, including some belonging to the late Dr. Simon Sheil, and a new coffee dock for patients and visitors. There is also a hairdressing facility, newspapers/magazines/shopping requirements, dry cleaning, and taxis and other transport will be made available to residents and patients.

Some 26 residents moved into their new home at Ballyshannon Community Hospital on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2024. The first phase of the opening of the new facility saw existing residents in the community nursing unit based at the Rock in Ballyshannon transfer to the facility, which allows for care to be given in the most appropriate modern healthcare environment to cater for their health and social needs and promote a good quality of life.

The second phase will see the opening of the 20-bed short-term unit. This unit will facilitate discharges from both Sligo University Hospital and Letterkenny University Hospital for those patients that require further inpatient care in a step-down facility.



Once the sanctioned level of recruitment has been completed, a further long-term care facility containing 13 beds will become operational and it is anticipated that these units will be operational by July 2024.

All required staff for the hospital have been sanctioned by both the Department of Health and National HSE and Human Resources continue to actively recruit staff of all required grades

It is anticipated all 80 beds will be open and fully operational by year end 2024.

Finally, the staffing complement attached to the hospital is significant and will contribute to the wider social and economic development of the community in the South Donegal, North Leitrim and North Sligo areas.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melissa Kelly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a decorative flourish at the end.

Melissa Kelly,  
A/General Manager,  
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