



**Deputy Pauline Tully**  
**Dáil Éireann**  
**Leinster House**  
**Dublin 2**

21st February 2024

**PQ 5189/24 - To ask the Minister for Health the estimated full year cost to increase the number of adult critical care beds in the public health service to 400.**

Dear Deputy Tully,

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.

The Government's strategic multi-year plan for additional permanent adult critical care capacity was developed in 2020 to support the long-term strategic goal of increasing overall adult critical care capacity. The plan is clinically led and aligns with the National Critical Care Clinical Programmes "hub and spoke" Model of Care and the vision set out in Sláintecare of "right care, right place, right time".

This Strategic Plan is planned over two phases to bring bed capacity to 457 beds and to improve the capacity and capability of the system to provide critical care in line with the Model of Care, including investment in the development of the Critical Care Retrieval Service and education and training initiatives to develop the necessary skilled workforce.

Significant investment of €77m between 2021 and 2022 has enabled a 28% increase in the number of critical care beds from **258** Critical Care beds in March 2020 to **329** in December 2023.

By year end 2024, there are a further 22 critical care beds profiled for delivery as part of Phase 1 of the implementation of the Critical Care Strategic Plan:-

Hospital	No of Beds
Mater	10
SVUH	6
SJH	3
SUH	1



CUH	2
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As of today's date, the current adult critical care funded bed capacity is 330 beds.

Phase 2 of the Critical Care Strategic Plan commits to the development of new build capacity to support the delivery of a further 106 beds at five prioritised sites. These five sites are Beaumont, Mater, Cork University Hospital, St James, and St Vincent's University Hospital. All five sites are currently progressing through the necessary Capital approval processes.

The National Standards for Adult Critical Care Services provide a patient-based definition of critical illness where critical illness is defined by the patient's clinical condition and his/her level of need for critical care. Accordingly, critical care is not an institution-based or specialty-based definition.

A critically ill patient requiring critical care support for single organ failure normally receives "Level 2" critical care which involves active management by critical care team. A critically ill patient requiring invasive ventilatory support or requiring multi-organ supports normally requires "Level 3" critical care.

I have been advised by the Healthcare Pricing Office (HPO) that the estimated revenue cost for a Level 3 Critical Care bed is €850,000. I am advised by HSE Estates that the capital cost of a Critical Care bed ranges from €1.6m to €1.9m (as at June 2022).

Noting that the current funded adult critical care capacity is 330, estimated revenue costs for an additional 70 level 3 ICU beds would be €59.5m and capital costs would be estimated, based on costing of €1.9m, as €133m.

I trust this is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

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**Carol Ivory**  
**General Manager, Acute Operations**