



**Head of Service for Older Persons
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare**
Health Service Executive
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Cúram Sláinte Pobail - Corcaigh & Ciarraí
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Teach Caha, Párc Ghnó & Teicneolaíochta
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21st February 2024

Deputy Holly Cairns, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann
Dublin 2

PQ ref 5595/24

“To ask the Minister for Health to provide detail on the planned closure of 16 beds across two units in Clonakilty Community Hospital in order to facilitate the opening of a new unit; whether concerns have been raised with the HSE by unions in regards to safe staffing levels in the hospital as a result of the new unit; and if he will make a statement on the matter”.

Dear Deputy Cairns,

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.

Clonakilty Community Hospital, in common with a number of our residential facilities, has undergone significant change and reconfiguration recently to comply with regulatory requirements and also to meet the changing needs of residents with regard to their complexity. S.I. No. 293/2016 requires a registered provider to comply with regulations relating to physical environment and bedroom sizes. The refurbishment works in our community hospitals are to enable compliance with these statutory requirements and has facilitated a move away from the ‘open ward’ model to more private rooms, resulting in enhanced facilities for our current and future residents and supporting their privacy, dignity and physical distancing to minimise infection transmission risks.

A newly built unit at the hospital, Silverwood, became operational on 7th February and 16 of our long term care residents from the Dochas and Crionna wards were relocated to the new unit. The vacated beds in the Dochas ward will be filled from the hospital’s waiting list. Beds in the Crionna ward will be temporarily closed for necessary renovations but we plan to complete these works and reopen the beds as soon as possible. None of these beds are closing permanently.

Sustained recruitment efforts are ongoing to maintain and enhance the services available to the local community while ensuring that the maximum number of people that can be safely accommodated in Clonakilty Community Hospital are being accommodated. Safe staffing is a priority for management and any changes at Clonakilty Community Hospital happen in conjunction with senior management and Trade Unions, with staff and their representatives engaged with extensively and productively in relation to safe staffing ratios.

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



Yours sincerely,



Jackie Daly
Head of Service for Older People