



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta  
Géaroibríochtaí

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28<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Deputy Patricia Ryan  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

*By email only*

**PQ 7020/24 To ask the Minister for Health in view of the recent record number of people left on trollies in our hospitals recently, due to lack of bed capacity, and demonstrating that funding for even existing levels of service is far from sufficient, what level of increased investment would the minister envisage necessary to increase that bed capacity; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Patricia Ryan**

Dear Deputy Ryan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary questions, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

I wish to advise that the HSE profiled 1186 beds for delivery as part of National Service Plans 2021-2023. As of end of February 2024, 1182 additional beds are operational with a further 4 scheduled to open in the coming weeks. A further 87 additional beds are also planned for delivery as part of NSP 2024. Therefore, as of 28.2.24, it is planned to deliver a further 91 (87+4) beds in 2024. This will bring the total additional bed capacity from **National Service Plans 2021-2024 to n=1273 beds.**

Further to same, I wish to advise that work is ongoing to finalise the Urgent & Emergency Care projected bed demand to inform priority capital developments on acute model 4 and model 3 sites. In parallel, HSE Estates are assessing acute sites to determine the most appropriate approach in the delivery of additional bed capacity in context of service priorities and the capital funding necessary.

It is envisaged that a total of approx. 1500 rapid build beds will be progressed in phases subject to provision of capital funding. In tandem with the capital works, the manpower requirements will be finalised in order to seek the necessary revenue and progress with the relevant recruitment so beds can be operationalised as soon as available.

I trust this is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

**Jacqueline McNulty,**  
General Manager, Acute Operations