



**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
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30th September 2024

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

PQ ref 36238/24

"To ask the Minister for Health the reason for staff in the West Kerry Community Hospital not being replaced; and if he will make a statement on the matter".

Details Supplied:

"Minister we have staff shortages in the West Kerry Community Hospital. Two staff members have recently left and staff have been told they will not be replaced. This is going to cause beds being closed in the hospital if these roles are not fulfilled".

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.

West Kerry Community Hospital (WKCH) provides 24- hour nursing care to both male and female residents whose dependencies range from low to maximum care needs. Long-term care, respite, convalescence and palliative care is provided. WKCH is registered with HIQA to accommodate 46 residents.

WKCH, in common with other health facilities, can temporarily experience staffing shortages as a result of staff resignations/retirements and various types of leave. However, we constantly endeavour to mitigate deficits and ensure that safe staffing and appropriate skill mix levels are maintained within the constraints of the limited supply of candidates in our more rural locations. Our priority is the delivery of safe high-quality care to our residents at all times and facilitation of clear pathways for the transition of patients from the acute sector to the community.

Staffing deficiencies have been regularly mitigated through the use of overtime and agency staff to maintain safe staffing levels for our residents. However, due to the rural location of the hospital, sourcing of agency staff can sometimes be intermittent. There have been enormous demands on the health service with nursing staff in particular being in demand to match all service requirements.

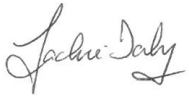
Staff shortages in recent years across all disciplines have been combatted through the launch of various successful recruitment campaigns. Recruitment efforts have been ongoing to recruit permanent nurses to this location. Overseas nurses were interviewed recently for Cork and Kerry Community Hospitals and the successful candidates will commence induction in our units in the coming weeks. Two of these nurses (2 WTEs) are scheduled to take up employment in WKCH.

WKCH provides a valuable service to people living in the West Kerry area and we are committed to ensuring that residents continue to receive the highest standard of care in their community.



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

Yours sincerely,



Jackie Daly
Head of Service for Older Persons