

Head of Service for Older Persons
HSE South West - Health Service Executive
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Ceann na Seirbhíse do Dhaoine Scothaosta
FSS Iardheiscirt - Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Teach Caha, Párc Ghnó & Teicneolaíochta
Bóthar na Modh Feirme, Corcaigh
Tel: 021 4923854

2nd April 2025

Deputy Michael Cahill, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann
Dublin 2

PQ ref 15200/25:

“To ask the Minister for Health if approval will be given for additional staff as a matter of extreme urgency to allow two respite beds (details supplied) reopen at the earliest possible date; and if she will make a statement on the matter”.

Details Supplied: Cahersiveen Community Hospital

Dear Deputy Cahill,

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.

As you will be aware, challenges can exist in recruiting staff to some of our more rural community hospital locations. Staff shortages can temporarily occur in our community hospitals as a result of retirements, resignations and various other leave including flexible working time arrangements which are available to our staff.

Consequently, there may unfortunately be occasions where beds are not occupied to 100% capacity as a result of recruitment or staffing issues. To ensure the safety of both our residents and our staff, bed capacity is dependent on adequate staffing levels and requires an appropriate staff skill-mix to be in place. HSE South West has undertaken many recruitment initiatives, at both a national and international level, to fill positions at our community hospitals and maintain or increase capacity.

Cahirciveen Community Hospital has been impacted by these staffing challenges but we are committed to re-opening temporarily-closed beds at the hospital to meet the needs of the local community, contingent on successful recruitment. On-going recruitment campaigns are being progressed against a backdrop of a limited pool of available candidates, which is reflective of the recruitment challenges being experienced in the health sector.

Provision and maintenance of enhanced services for our service-users in Cahirciveen and the wider Kerry region is a HSE priority and we are committed to maximising all available supports for older people and their families in this area.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Jackie Daly
Head of Service for Older Persons