

**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**

12<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Deputy Michael Cahill, T.D.,  
Dail Eireann  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 19587/25:**

**“To ask the Minister for Health the number of posts currently advertised in West Kerry Community Hospital; the positions that have been advertised; how long these posts are advertised; and if she will make a statement on the matter.”**

**PQ ref 19598/25:**

**“To ask the Minister for Health to open additional beds in West Kerry Community Hospital as a matter of priority; the number and how soon these additional beds will be open; and if she will make a statement on the matter”.**

Dear Deputy Cahill,

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.

There are 46 beds registered for use at West Kerry Community Hospital, with 42 beds currently in use. The number of beds open at any time is dependent on safe staffing levels. West Kerry Community Hospital, in common with other health facilities, can experience staffing shortages but we constantly endeavour to mitigate deficits and ensure that safe staffing levels are maintained.

HSE South West is working to provide additional beds at West Kerry Community Hospital so that we can provide an enhanced service for the local community. However, plans to increase capacity are dependent on staffing levels and the outcome of ongoing recruitment campaigns. We are continuing our intensive efforts to recruit staff of all grades for West Kerry Community Hospital, and these efforts have encompassed local, national and international campaigns.

With regard to **PQ19587/25**, every effort has been made to fill vacancies at the hospital in a challenging recruitment environment. HSE South West has progressed numerous recruitment initiatives at both a national and international level to fill nursing positions at our community hospitals, including West Kerry. Campaigns have been advanced against the background of a limited pool of available candidates, which is reflective of the global recruitment challenges currently being experienced. The campaigns have resulted in subsequent panelling of successful candidates where applicable but the location of the hospital has meant that panelled candidates have often opted for more urban locations and Expressions of Interest have been limited or absent. We are obliged to offer posts to existing panels and therefore there are no current advertisements running for West Kerry Community Hospital but HSE South West is currently reviewing panel durations and targeted recruitment strategies in an effort to identify as many suitable candidates as possible for positions at the hospital.

In relation to **PQ 19598/25**, we cannot confirm at this point either the number of additional beds that can be opened at West Kerry Community Hospital or the timelines for opening same as this is contingent on successful recruitment.

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

Yours sincerely,

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**Jackie Daly**  
**Head of Service for Older Persons**

