

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
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12th May 2025

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

PQ ref 19592/25:

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

PQ ref 19599/25:

“To ask the Minister for Health to open additional beds in Listowel 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.

Listowel Community Hospital is located on the outskirts of Listowel town and provides 24-hour nursing care to both male and female residents whose dependencies range from low to maximum care needs. Listowel Community Hospital incorporates St Joseph's Unit (which provides long term care), as well as the short-stay 'District Hospital'.

Listowel Community Hospital, in common with other health facilities, can temporarily experience staffing shortages as a result of staff resignations/retirements or unscheduled leave and unfortunately this can have an impact on bed capacity in the short term. However, we constantly endeavour to mitigate deficits and ensure that safe staffing levels are maintained against the background of the difficulties that can be encountered in recruiting prospective candidates for some of our more remotely-located units.

With regard to **PQ 19592/25**, Listowel Community Hospital is operating to capacity of 40 beds- 16 short stay and 24 long stay with safe staffing levels.

In relation to **PQ 19599/25**, the opening of any additional beds at Listowel Community Hospital is governed by our ability to ensure delivery of healthcare in a safe and appropriate manner. The number and skill mix of staff has to be appropriate to meet the needs of the residents living in the unit so that they continue to receive the highest standard of care.

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 Persons

