

**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**

29<sup>th</sup> April 2025

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

**PQ ref 19603/25:**

**“To ask the Minister for Health to expedite the opening of Killarney Community Hospital, County Kerry; the number additional beds that will be provided 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 Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The new Killarney Community Nursing Unit will contain 130 single, *en-suite* bedrooms, comprised of rehabilitation, long term care, community support and dementia-specific beds. The bed breakdown of the new unit will comprise 30 dementia-specific beds, 50 long stay beds and 50 short stay beds - configuration of the 50 short stay beds is still being finalised. The new unit will replace and enhance the current services provided (65 long stay beds, 35 short stay beds) at Killarney Community Hospitals (incorporating St Columbanus Home and the District Hospital/Rehab Unit).

The delivery of this capital project is part of a (PPP) Public Private Partnership development. The delivery of any capital project is a dynamic process and is subject to the successful completion of the various approval stages, in line with the Public Spending Code, which can impact on the timeline for delivery.

Construction of the new unit is substantially completed but we await a final completion date from the PPP Company and HSE National Estates. The contractor has incurred delays on the construction programme which has pushed out the final construction completion date for Killarney CNU. Consequently, based on the information available to the HSE at this point in time, the estimated completion date is likely to be Q3 2025.

Following handover, the new hospital requires significant preparation before it can be operational. The building handover is expected to be completed with a turnkey finish. Initially, Estates will receive the building, during which time stocking of stores will be required. The process of applying to HIQA for registration of the building can only begin at this stage. The pre-application process requires the development of the Statement of Purpose (SOP) and a review of the floor plans to ensure alignment with the SOP.

Preparations to move to operational status include stocking of the facility, successful registration by HIQA, and conducting of final inspections. Workforce planning continues to progress across all staff disciplines to ensure the required complement and skill mix of staff is in place to facilitate the operational schedule for the new unit.

In summary, the timeline for when the building is expected to become operational is dependent on handover of the new building by the PPP company and subsequent registration by management at the unit. Registration cannot be applied for until full handover of the completed building has taken place. We anticipate that the time frame from submission of the application to inspection by HIQA will be approximately six weeks.

Once the building is officially registered, we will be in a position to move from St Columbanus to the new building. Finalisation of staffing models and union negotiations will be part of the preparation process. Primary notifications for approval of additional staffing have been sought nationally. It is envisaged that there will be a phased transfer of residents from St. Columbanus and Killarney Community Hospital into the new facility. Transfer of services to the new unit will take place as soon as possible following completion of the operational phases outlined above.

HSE South West continues to engage with patients and staff on updates in relation to the opening of the new Killarney Community Nursing Unit.

Yours sincerely,

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Jackie Daly  
Head of Service for Older Persons

