

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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14th July 2025

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

PQ ref 36109/25:

“To ask the Minister for Health the number of vacant beds in the district Killarney community hospital Kerry during April and May 2025; and if she will make a statement on the matter”.

PQ ref 36110/25:

“To ask the Minister for Health the current number of vacant beds at a nursing home (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter”.

Details Supplied: Columbanus Nursing Home Killarney

PQ ref 36112/25:

“To ask the Minister for Health the reason for the delay in the opening of the community hospital Killarney; if this opening will be expedited; the current expected date for opening; and if she will make a statement on the matter”.

Dear Deputy Healy-Rae,

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.

The Killarney Community Hospitals campus incorporates two facilities – St Columbanus’s Home which provides long term care to residents and the District Hospital (Rehabilitation Unit) which is a short-stay unit. St Columbanus Home in Killarney is currently registered to provide care to 66 residents, while the District Hospital is registered to provide short stay beds for 35 residents.

With regard to **PQ ref 36109/25**, there were no vacant short stay beds in the District Hospital Killarney during April and May 2025. We have been supporting a range of actions to alleviate acute hospital pressures including discharge of patients, whose acute phase of care has been completed, from our acute hospitals into short stay beds in our nursing homes while awaiting transfer either home or into long-term residential care. As a result, there has been a consistently high demand for short stay beds in the District Hospital and any temporarily vacant beds are quickly booked and filled to meet this demand.

In relation to **PQ ref 36110/25**, no long term beds are currently vacant at St Columbanus’s Home. Community hospital (or public nursing home) waiting lists are maintained chronologically and are managed by the Continuing Care Placement Coordinators in HSE South West. Individuals are offered placements in their turn as soon as a vacancy arises, based on their position on the waiting list and the facility’s ability to meet their assessed care needs.

With regard to **PQ ref 36112/25**, the new Killarney Community Nursing Unit (CNU) will replace and enhance the current services provided at Killarney Community Hospitals (incorporating St Columbanus’s Home and the District Hospital/Rehab Unit). The contractor incurred delays on the construction programme which pushed out the final construction completion date. Based on the current information available to the Older Persons Service

Management Team from our Estates colleagues, it is estimated that the completion date is likely to be during Q3 2025.

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. Once the building is officially registered, we will be in a position to move to the new building and it is envisaged that there will be a phased transfer of residents from Killarney Community Hospitals 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 will continue to engage with patients and staff on updates in relation to the opening of the new Killarney Community Nursing Unit.

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