



Ceann na Seirbhíse do Dhaoine Scothaosta  
**FSS an Iardheiscirt**  
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Páirc Ghnó & Teicneolaíochta,  
Bóthar na Modh Feirme,  
Corcaigh

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Deputy Thomas Gould, T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 39715/25**

**“To ask the Minister for Health the number of beds currently unopened in Heather House.”.**

Dear Deputy Gould,

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.

Heather House Community Nursing Unit (CNU) is a HIQA registered purpose built Older Persons residential healthcare facility located on the grounds of St Mary's Health Campus on the North-side of Cork City. The location of Heather House is well placed to meet the current needs of Cork City and its environs and the opening of a new extension has facilitated Heather House's ongoing emergence as one of the largest public units providing long term care beds in Cork. The new extension is complete and fully occupied. 60 beds in total are currently open and occupied in Heather House.

We have been reconfiguring Primrose Unit within the original Heather House facility to develop a 19 bedded dementia-friendly unit. These works are completed except for final snagging and this is well underway. Given the extent of the works that have been undertaken in the unit, a new application to re-register the beds is required and once engagement with the regulator has concluded, the unit can reopen for admissions

Within the existing building, Daisy Unit requires additional fire safety works in terms of fire certification. The 25 beds in Daisy Unit are currently closed, as the Contractor requires full access to the unit to carry out these works.

In summary, due to the works outlined above, 44 beds are currently not open at Heather House but the Dementia Unit beds (19) are expected to come onstream before year end when registration has been attained. The remaining 25 beds in Daisy Unit will reopen when essential fire safety works have been completed. The total capacity of Heather House once all works have been completed and registration secured will be 104 beds.

Recruitment is ongoing to ensure that the required staffing levels are in place when both Daisy and Primrose Units can reopen for admissions. Currently staffing issues are not impacting on bed capacity as the closures detailed above are directly and solely related to building works.

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