



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

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7th August 2025

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

PQ ref 41246/25:

“To ask the Minister for Health if every effort will be made to ensure that Kerry patients are placed in the nearest community hospital or nursing home to where they and their loved ones reside given this is not currently happening; 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.

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 vacancies arise, based on their position on the waiting list and the facility's ability to meet their assessed care needs. Under the Nursing Homes Support Scheme (NHSS or Fair Deal), all applicants have the right to choose their preferred nursing home—public or private—provided that a bed is available and the facility can meet their assessed requirements. This principle of choice remains a fundamental aspect of the scheme and cannot be compromised by the HSE.

While public nursing home beds are allocated through HSE-managed lists, private nursing homes maintain their own independent waiting lists. Applicants may place themselves on multiple lists across both public and private facilities. In many cases, individuals opt to enter a private nursing home while awaiting a vacancy in their preferred public facility. It is important to note that a vacancy in a HSE facility does not guarantee immediate placement. Prior to admission, a reassessment is conducted to confirm that the applicant's current care needs can be met by the unit.

To uphold fairness and transparency, community admissions are based on both the chronological order of applications and the facility's ability to meet the applicant's care requirements. The reasons for choosing a particular facility may vary, but the most equitable approach remains a systematic allocation of available beds based on the applicant's place on the waiting list.

The HSE remains committed to delivering safe, high-quality residential care that respects individual choice while ensuring fairness in admissions through a transparent and consistent process.

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