



13<sup>th</sup> August 2025

Deputy Marie Sherlock,

Dáil Eireann

Leinster House

Kildare Street

Dublin 2

Dear Deputy Sherlock,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to this Department for response.

**PQ41705/25:**

***To ask the Minister for Health the waiting list for dementia beds; and if she will make a statement on the matter.***

Dementia is an umbrella term to describe a range of conditions, complicated by the fact that dementia is a progressive illness. Many people with dementia reside in generic residential care facilities. Nursing homes are generally classified into centres which have a Dedicated Dementia unit (which will have a defined number of beds) and those centres that will accept low to medium risk cases (and consequently do not have a defined number of beds as such and therefore risk-assess each case before acceptance for admission).

Based on clinical assessment of both the disease's progression and the individual characteristics displayed by an applicant for care, the type of facilities required can vary from a bed in a dedicated Dementia Unit to a general nursing bed with additional safeguards. Furthermore, our Community Hospital waiting lists are not a reflection of the number of people who do not have a residential placement; a significant number of those people waitlisted may have already availed of a bed in a private or voluntary unit. In addition, some of those waitlisted are on the waiting lists for a number of our HSE units. They remain on the waiting list for their preferred unit(s) as per their wishes but regularly when a vacancy does arise and a placement offer is made for one of our



public units, the offer is often declined because the person has settled in their current location.

The HSE can only provide waiting list data in relation to our own HSE community hospitals/community nursing units. Private nursing homes are privately owned and manage their own waiting lists and admission criteria; the HSE has no input into this process.

The waiting lists for dementia beds are reported by Health Region EO below:

Health Region	No on Waiting List for Dementia Bed	Further information
Dublin Midlands	54	<i>No separate waiting list held for Dementia Specific Bed in Laois – Offaly as many of the referrals received have a diagnosis of Dementia</i>
Dublin North East	104	<i>IHA areas of Dublin North County and Dublin North City &amp; West do not have any designated Dementia Units and therefore there is no waiting list for dementia beds</i>
South West	125	
West North West	36	
Dublin South East	342	
Mid West	58	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>719</b>	

I trust this information is of assistance to you, should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Yours sincerely,

**Kathleen Jordan**  
**Head of Service – Access & Integration – Services for Older People**