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9<sup>th</sup> July 2025

**Deputy Conor Sheehan**  
**Leinster House**  
**Kildare St., Dublin 2**

**Re: PQ 33526/25 - "To ask the Minister for Health the current resources and staff allocation to Limerick Palliative Care, including the provision of home care palliative care and residential palliative care; and the current vacancies within this service."**

Dear Deputy Sheehan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in regard to your parliamentary question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

In order to respond to the queries raised in your Parliamentary Question, it was forwarded to Milford Care Centre, who receive Section 38 funding from the HSE to provide specialist palliative care services on behalf of the HSE Mid West. Milford Care Centre have provided the following information in response to your representation:

Milford Care Centre is located in Limerick and is the sole provider of specialist palliative care services for the Mid-West region, covering Limerick, Clare, and North Tipperary. Milford Care Centre delivers a broad range of services, including in-patient hospice care, specialist community palliative care, day care, outpatient and bereavement support services.

Specialist palliative care service is a medical model and Milford Care Centre is staffed by a dedicated multidisciplinary team comprising specialist palliative care consultants, nurses, social workers, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, pastoral care, and support staff all working collaboratively to ensure high-quality, person-centred care. Please see below information regarding resources and staffing allocation as requested:

**1. Current resources and staff allocation to Limerick Palliative Care, including the provision for home care palliative care - Community Services**

**Staff Allocation - Limerick:**

- Assistant Director of Nursing [1 WTE]
- Clinical Nurse Manager [2.6 WTE]
- Clinical Nurse Specialists (Community Palliative Care) [10.9 WTE]
- Candidate Clinical Nurse Specialists [ 1.2 WTE]
- Staff Nurse [ 2.1 WTE]
- Administrative and Support Staff [4.60 WTE]
- Physiotherapist [1.1 WTE]
- Occupational Therapist [1.2WTE]
- Social Worker [ 1.2 WTE]



**2. Current resources and staff allocation to Limerick Palliative Care, residential palliative care – Hospice (Inpatient Unit): Location: [Milford Hospice, Castletroy, Limerick] Bed Capacity: [30 inpatient beds]**

**Staff Allocation:**

- Director of Nursing, Therapies & Social Care [1 WTE] \* manages Inpatient Community and Older Persons Services
- Assistant Director of Nursing [1.0 WTE] \* manages Inpatient Specialist Palliative Care & Older Persons Services
- Clinical Nurse Managers [8.28 WTE]
- Staff Nurses [35.47 WTE]
- Healthcare Assistants [20.64 WTE]
- Administrative and Support Staff [9.67 WTE]
- Physiotherapist [1.1 WTE]
- Occupational Therapist [1.2WTE]
- Social Worker [ 1.2 WTE]
- Music Therapist [1.2 WTE]
- Art Therapist [0.3 WTE]
- Pastoral Care [2 WTE]
- Speech & Language Therapist [0.7 WTE]
- Dietitian [1 WTE]
- Complementary Therapist [1.1 WTE]

**3. Current Vacancies:**

At the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2025 there were seven posts vacant (equating to 5.4 WTE) within Limerick Palliative Care services.

Post	Dept.	WTE
CNM3	SPCCS	1.4 (1 WTE to be filled 07/07/2025)
Pension Officer (Grade VI)	Admin	1
Snr. Physiotherapist	IPU	1
CNM3	IPU	0.4
Snr. Occupational Therapist	IPU	1.6

I trust the above information addresses the issues raised in your representation.

Yours sincerely,

**Margaret Costello**  
**Head of Service**  
**Primary Care**