

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
Bóthar na Modh Feirme, Corcaigh
Tel: 021 4923854

27th June 2025

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

PQ ref 34870/25

“To ask the Minister for Health the plans in place to provide additional beds and staff in community hospitals across Kerry; 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.

Provision of enhanced services for people in Kerry is a HSE priority. We are working to a recruitment plan to optimise services and capacity in our Kerry Community Hospitals/Community Nursing Units, against the background of the significant challenges that recruitment to community hospitals in some of our more rural locations can present. The opening of additional beds at any of our units requires adequate staffing levels and an appropriate skill-mix to be in place to ensure the safety of both our residents and our staff. Any increase in capacity at any of our units also requires registration of the additional beds with HIQA.

The Public Private Partnership development of a Community Nursing Unit which is currently underway in Killarney will assist in addressing the increased demand for beds in Kerry. The HSE is committed to maximising all available supports for older people in the Kerry region. We continuously review our services in line with population health planning and Sláintecare principles to ensure the ongoing development of modern services across the county.

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