

**Head of Service for Older Persons - HSE South West**

Health Service Executive  
Caha House, Business & Technology Park  
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Cork Eircode: T12 XHT4

**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**

2<sup>nd</sup> April 2025

Minister Michael Healy Rae. T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 13252/25**

**“To ask the Minister for Health if she will ensure every effort is made to reopen beds in Caherciveen Community Hospital; and if she will make a statement on the matter.”**

**Details Supplied: Minister Caherciveen Community Hospital has two hospice care beds. In the past a lot of fundraising has done by the local community to put these beds in place. They were always assured that these beds would be kept open for local people to provide a much needed and much wanted service for people suffering from serious illness. Unfortunately because of staffing shortages I believe these beds are no longer in service. This means now people must be cared for in the Palliative care unit in UHK which is a three hour round trip from people in South Kerry who wish to visit.**

Dear Minister Healy Rae,

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.

As you will be aware, challenges can exist in recruiting staff to some of our more rural community hospital locations. Staff shortages can temporarily occur in our community hospitals as a result of retirements, resignations and various other leave including flexible working time arrangements which are available to our staff. Consequently, there may unfortunately be occasions where beds are not occupied to 100% capacity as a result of recruitment or staffing issues. To ensure the safety of both our residents and our staff, bed capacity is dependent on adequate staffing levels and requires an appropriate staff skill-mix to be in place. HSE South West has undertaken many recruitment initiatives, at both a national and international level, to fill positions at our community hospitals and maintain or increase capacity.

Cahirciveen Community Hospital has been impacted by these staffing challenges but we are committed to re-opening temporarily-closed beds at the hospital to meet the needs of the local community, contingent on successful recruitment. On-going recruitment campaigns are being progressed against a backdrop of a limited pool of available candidates, which is reflective of the recruitment challenges being experienced in the health sector.

Provision and maintenance of enhanced services for our service-users in Cahirciveen and the wider Kerry region is a HSE priority and we are committed to maximising all available supports for older people and their families in this area.

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

