



22nd April 2025

Deputy Sorca Clarke
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2
sorca.clarke@oireachtas.ie

PQ ref 13673/25

Dear Deputy Clarke,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above representation, which you submitted for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Regional Hospital Mullingar can advise that all inpatient physiotherapists will deliver respiratory care as part of their individual caseload.

Currently, there is 1.0 WTE Senior Physiotherapy resource delivering respiratory care for inpatients and approx. 1.5 staff grade WTE resource delivering respiratory care for inpatients. In addition, there is 1.0 WTE clinical specialist physiotherapist working with the COPD outreach service. This is a dedicated respiratory service but direct care is not provided on the wards instead it is provided to RHM patients in their homes to support early discharge. The approximate respiratory physiotherapist resource over the previous three years is outlined here:

| | 2025 | 2024 | 2023 |
|------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Inpatient Senior | 1.0 WTE | 1.0 WTE | 1.5 WTE |
| Inpatient Staff Grade | 1.5 WTE | 1.5 WTE | 2.0 WTE |
| COPD Outreach | 1.0 WTE | 1.0 WTE | 1.0 WTE |
| | 2.5 WTE | 2.5 WTE | 4.5 WTE |

With regard to future plans, there has been no notification of additional posts being allocated to the service. The reduction of staffing outlined was due to a unfunded temporary COVID staff grade post which ceased in 2023 and a senior Physiotherapist hours vacated in 2023.

I trust this information is helpful to you.

Yours sincerely

Ms Margaret Kelleher
Hospital Manager