



Deputy David Cullinane
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

10th March 2025

PQ9557/25:- To ask the Minister for Health the number of intensive care and high-dependency unit beds across the State, by hospital; the number of beds sanctioned per hospital; the number of additional beds planned per hospital; and the timeframe for delivery in each case, in tabular form. -David Cullinane

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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.

The Government's strategic multi-year plan for additional permanent adult critical care capacity was developed in 2020 to support the long-term strategic goal of increasing overall adult critical care capacity. The plan is clinically led and aligns with the National Critical Care Clinical Programmes "hub and spoke" Model of Care and the vision set out in Sláintecare of "right care, right place, right time".

This Strategic Plan is planned over two phases to bring adult critical care bed capacity to 458 beds at the end of Phase 2, to improve the capacity and capability of the system to provide critical care in line with the Model of Care, and includes investment in the development of the Critical Care Retrieval Service and education and training initiatives to develop the necessary skilled workforce.

Significant investment in excess of €77m between 2021 and 2022 has enabled the number of adult critical care beds to increase from **258** adult Critical Care beds in March 2020 to **340** at the end of 2024.

The balance of Phase 1 is profiled for delivery in 2025 with a further 6 adult critical care beds to be delivered in Q3, 2025 in SVUH with a further 6 in the Mater by the end of 2025.

All of the beds delivered under Phase 1 of the Critical Care Strategic Plan are under the clinical governance of the Critical Care team. All but 2 of the beds are Level 3 adult critical care beds. 2 x level 2 Critical Care HDU beds were provided in Sligo in 2023. (Please note that not all HDU beds are critical care beds).

Phase 2 of the Critical Care Strategic Plan commits to the development of new build capacity to support the delivery of a further 106 beds at five prioritised sites. These five sites

are Beaumont, Mater, Cork University Hospital, St James, and St Vincent's University Hospital. All five sites are currently progressing through the necessary Capital approval processes.

Please see below in the appendix, the details of the additional Phase 1 capacity provided to date by hospital; the planned capacity for 2025 and the Phase 2 capacity per site.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Carol Ivory,
General Manager
Access & Integration

Appendix 1 – Funded Adult Critical Care Capacity under Strategic Plan

Region/Hospital*	Beds March 2020	NSP	Phase 1 Beds Opened 2021	NSP	Phase 1 Beds Opened 2022	Total Beds end 2022	NSP	Phase	Phase 1/1+ Opened 2023	Total Beds end 2023	NSP	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Phase 1/1+ Opened 2024	Phase 1/1+ Remaining 2024	Total Beds end 2024	NSP	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total Beds end 2025	Total Beds End Phase 1/1+	Planned Phase 2 Beds	Total	
HSE Dublin and North East																												
Cavan Hospital		4	NSP 21	1		5			0	5								5						5	5		5	
Our Lady of Lourdes Drogheda		8				8			0	8								8						8	8		8	
Navan Hospital		3				3			0	3								3						3	3		3	
NUIM		3	NSP 21	3	NSP 21	6	4	NSP 22	Phase 1	0	4	NSP24	2*	2*	2*	0	0	4	NSP24	2	2	2	2	5	11	12	63	
Seamont Hospital		2	NSP 21	2		2			0	2									2					2	2	22	89	
Connolly Hospital		4	NSP 21	2		6			0	6									6					6	6		6	
HSE Dublin and Midlands																												
Naas General Hospital		4				4			0	4								4						4	4		4	
MRH Portlaoise		2				2			0	2								2						2	2		2	
MRH Tullamore		4	NSP 21	2		6			0	NSP24				1		1	0	0	7					7	7		7	
MRH Mullingar		6				6			0	6									6					6	6		6	
Tallaght University Hospital		14			NSP 21	12	26			0	26								26					26	26		26	
St James's Hospital		31	NSP 21	4	NSP 21	1	36	NSP23	Phase 1+	0	36	NSP24	1	2		1	0	39					39	39	31	10	58	
HSE Dublin and South East																												
St Vincent's University Hospital		18	NSP 21	2	NSP 21	1	19	NSP21(1)/NSP23(4)	Phase 1	2	21	NSP24					0	23	NSP24		6			27	27	19	46	
St Luke's Kilkenny Hospital		4				4			0	4									4					4	4		4	
Wexford General Hospital		5				5			0	5									5					5	5		5	
5th Tipperary General Hospital		4	NSP 21	1		5			0	5									5					5	5		5	
University Hospital Waterford		9	NSP 21	2		11			0	11									11					11	11		11	
HSE South West																												
Cork University Hospital		19	NSP 21	3	NSP 22	3	25	NSP21(1)/NSP23(4)	Phase 1/ 1+	3	28	NSP24	2			2	0	30					30	30	34		64	
Merry University Hospital		5	NSP 21	1		6			0	6									6					6	6		6	
Kerry University Hospital		5	NSP 21	1		6			0	6									6					6	6		6	
HSE West and North West																												
Letterkenny University Hospital		5	NSP 21	1		6			0	6									6					6	6		6	
Portlaoise University Hospital		6				6			0	6									6					6	6		6	
Sligo University Hospital		6	NSP 21	1		6	NSP 23	Phase 1+	0	7	NSP24		1			0	0	3					3	3		3		
Mayo University Hospital		3				3			0	3									3					3	3		3	
Galway University Hospital		18	NSP 21	6		24			0	24									24					24	24		24	
HSE Mid West																												
University Hospital Limerick		18	NSP 21	10		28			0	28									28					28	28		28	
Total		258		42		23	323		6	329		1	5	5	0	11		0	340		2	0	8	2		352	106	458
* Hospitals presented per Region - change from Hospital Group presentation.																												
Funded Capacity - End December 2024		340																										