



Oifig an Stiúrthóra Náisiúnta  
um Rochtain agus Imeascadh

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Deputy David Cullinane  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

26<sup>th</sup> June 2025

***PQ 28733/25 - To ask the Minister for Health the cost of 100 virtual ward beds. -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.

A virtual ward is a safe and efficient alternative to HSE bed care that is enabled by technology. Virtual wards support patients who would otherwise be in hospital to receive the acute care, monitoring and treatment they need in the comfort of their own home. This innovative approach allows patients to remain under the care of the hospital team while also benefiting from the comfort and convenience of their home environment.

Virtual wards specifically cater to patients requiring acute care that would traditionally need to attend an acute hospital. Patients in a virtual ward receive the same level of medical attention from a dedicated team of healthcare professionals using advanced remote monitoring technology.

Two 25 bed virtual wards; in University Hospital Limerick and St. Vincent's University Hospital, went live in July 2024, each with an ability to scale to 40 beds. The estimated full year costs for a virtual ward is €1,877,900, these costs are based on 2024 figures.

This figure includes Pay and Non-Pay (technology) costs and is based on a 25 bed ward. Any scale up and expansion will be based on a robust cost evaluation analysis.

I trust this is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

Nessa Lynch  
General Manager  
Access & Integration