



Deputy Marie Sherlock
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

31st October 2025

PQ 56406/25 To ask the Minister for Health the total acute bed capacity across all section 38 and HSE run hospitals, by year, from 2019 to date in 2025.

Dear Deputy Sherlock,

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.

Acute bed capacity refers to inpatient and day-case beds in publicly funded acute hospitals (HSE-run and Section 38 hospitals). It excludes private hospitals, community/rehabilitation, long-stay, and mental health facilities, and does not include escalation/trolley spaces.

For each year from 2019 to 2023 (inclusive), the figure shown is the average number of acute inpatient beds that were open and staffed—i.e., available for patient use—per day across the year.

Figures for years 2024 and 2025 reflect accredited capacity the number of commissioned and funded acute beds recorded on hospital bed stock at specific census points (December 2024 and June 2025 respectively). Accredited capacity reflects formally commissioned beds, which may differ from day-to-day operational availability due to temporary closures or service pressures. The national totals for acute bed capacity across Section 38 and HSE-run hospitals are set out below, as outlined in Table 1 hereunder.

The figures in the table are sourced from the HSE Business Information Unit (BIU), which is the central repository for activity information for Acute and Non-Acute Services. The BIU collects, collates and validates extensive amounts of data used in performance monitoring and measurement to support the HSE in operational and strategic decisions.



Table 1: Total Acute Bed Capacity

Year	*Acute Inpatient (beds)	*Acute Day Beds & Places	
2019	10,956	2,285	*Average available (national)
2020	11,027	2,286	Average available (national)
2021	11,340	2,438	Average available (national)
2022	11,577	2,476	Average available (national)
2023	11,812	2,552	Average available (national)
2024	12,014	2,648	*Accredited capacity (Dec 2024)
2025 (to June 2025)	12,063	2,701	Accredited capacity (Jun 2025)

Data source: Business Intelligence Unit (BIU)

Data Notes and Definitions:

- **Acute Inpatient Bed refers to:** a designated and staffed bed in an acute hospital for admitting inpatients, excluding day-case beds, trolley/escalation spaces, community or rehabilitation beds, long-stay beds, and mental health facilities.
- **Acute Day beds and places refers to:** designated staffed beds/chairs for day-case care (no overnight stay; excludes inpatient, escalation, community/rehab, long-stay, mental health).

* "Average available beds" are annual averages of beds available for use in acute settings

* "Accredited capacity" figures are 'point-in-time' snapshots and are not annual averages.

Totals include Section 38 and HSE- acute hospitals

I trust this is of assistance to you.

Yours Sincerely,

Nessa Lynch
General Manager
Access and Integration