



Ceann na Seirbhíse do Dhaoine Scothaosta
FSS an Iardheiscirt
Teach Caha,
Páirc Ghnó & Teicneolaíochta,
Bóthar na Modh Feirme,
Corcaigh

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10th September 2025

Deputy Eoghan Kenny, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann
Dublin 2

PQ ref 44684/25:

“To ask the Minister for Health the number of HSE residential beds available for nursing home care in Mallow; and if she will make a statement on the matter”.

Dear Deputy Kenny,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

As you are aware, the HSE has created 6 new health regions (Regional Health Authorities – RHAs) with each region responsible for providing both hospital and community care for the people in that area. Each region will plan, fund, manage and deliver integrated care across hospital and community healthcare services as geographically aligned, regional sub-divisions of the HSE, creating better access to services closer to home. The establishment of RHAs is fundamental to delivering Sláintecare reform and is in line with the Oireachtas Committee on the Future of Healthcare Sláintecare Report which states that regional bodies should be accountable for the planning and delivery of integrated health and social care services.

HSE South West is the RHA responsible for Cork and Kerry and within this structure, there are three Integrated Healthcare Areas (IHAs) – Cork South & West, Cork North & East and Kerry. IHAs are substructures within each of the 6 health regions and take account of local geographies, population size, needs and services. IHAs bring together both hospital and community services as well as other non-HSE providers in their respective areas, supporting and enabling integrated health and social care through the planning and delivery of services around the specific needs of people in each area.

Mallow is located within the Cork North & East IHA. Cork North & East IHA is responsible for integrating community health services, acute hospitals, primary care, social care, and voluntary services for the region, including Mallow, to continue and enhance our focus on patient care. HSE non-acute residential services for older people in Cork North and East IHA are provided at Kanturk, Millstreet, Fermoy, Midleton, Heather House and Youghal Community Hospitals. As at the end of August 2025, there were **89** long and short stay residential beds operational in Kanturk, Millstreet and Fermoy. A further **118** HSE long and short stay residential beds were operational within Cork North & East IHA in Youghal, Midleton and Heather House.

The principle of resident choice within the Nursing Home Support Scheme (or Fair Deal) empowers a person to avail of residential care in their preferred setting and location - public, private or voluntary. A number of private/voluntary nursing homes are located in Mallow and the surrounding area. However, their bed numbers are difficult to quantify for the HSE as private operators are free to accept private patients outside of Fair Deal and are not obliged to inform the HSE of such arrangements. In addition, private operators may not utilise all beds due to costs and/or staffing constraints. Private nursing homes are registered under the Health Act 2007 as private entities with their own governance and legal responsibilities.



In summary, HSE South West continuously reviews the community's needs in line with population health planning and Sláintecare principles to ensure the ongoing development of modern services across the region, in alignment with the desires of people to remain at home for as long as possible with community supports. We are committed to ensuring that optimal integrated health services are provided to the Mallow area and wider Cork North and East IHA region.

I trust this clarifies the position and if you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Jackie Daly
Head of Service for Older Persons