



Head of Service for Older People  
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare  
Health Service Executive  
Model Business Park  
Model Farm Road  
Cork Eircode: T12 HT02

Cúram Sláinte Pobail Corcaigh Ciarraí  
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Páirc Gnó Model  
Bóthar na Modh Feirme  
Corcaigh Eircode: T12 HT02  
T: 353 (0)21 4923854

8<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Deputy James Lawless, T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 53891/23**

**"To ask the Minister for Health when he proposes to open all the beds in Kenmare community nursing unit, Kenmare, County Kerry".**

Dear Deputy Lawless,

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.

Kenmare Community Nursing Unit is located on the outskirts of the town of Kenmare and is registered to accommodate a maximum of 35 residents. There are currently 28 beds open in Kenmare CNU and 13 of these are long stay beds.

Staff recruitment challenges have had an impact on bed capacity in a number of our community hospitals, including Kenmare Community Nursing Unit, and it can be difficult to fill new and existing vacancies in specific rural locations. Stringent efforts have been made to increase staff numbers through intensive recruitment campaigns in order to maximise the services available from Kenmare CNU. Opening of further beds will be subject to adequate staffing levels being in place to ensure the safety of our residents and staff.

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

Yours sincerely,

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Jackie Daly  
Head of Service for Older People

