

8th February 2024

Deputy Brendan Griffin, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann
Dublin 2

PQ ref 55718/23

“To ask the Minister for Health the up-to-date position regarding the anticipated opening of the new Killarney Community Hospital; how many beds will open; how this will compare to the current number of beds in the existing facilities; if he will provide a history/timeline for the project to date since its inception; and if he will make a statement on the matter”.

Dear Deputy Griffin,

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.

Three Clinical Nursing Units (CNUs) in the Cork Kerry Community Healthcare region are included in a national single bundle of CNUs to be developed by Public Private Partnership (PPP) and all three are currently at construction phase. One of these CNUs will be located in Killarney.

The awarding of the contact to deliver seven Community Nursing Units (CNU) under the HIQA compliance programme through Public Private Partnership was announced in December 2022 and construction on five of the facilities, including Killarney, commenced that month.

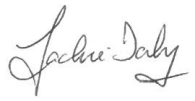
The new Killarney CNU is scheduled for completion at the end of Quarter 4 2024, with commissioning of the new build anticipated in Quarter 1 2025. The new unit will replace the current services provided in St Columbanus Home and the District Hospital (short stay unit) and it is envisaged that there will be a phased transfer of residents into the new facility. It is not possible at this point in time to give an exact time of transfer but it will occur as soon as possible following the completion of the works. It should be noted that the delivery of capital projects is a dynamic process and is subject to the successful completion of the various approval stages, in line with the Public Spending Code, which can impact on the timeline for delivery.

The new CNU will contain 130 beds, comprised of rehabilitation, long term care, community support and dementia-specific beds. Full production kitchen, therapy suites, external spaces and various communal spaces for our residents are also included in the new build. This model creates a person-centred approach focusing on quality of life and providing an environment that reflects the comforts of home, with assistance provided as necessary around the performance of everyday tasks.

St Columbanus Home in Killarney is currently registered to provide care to 66 residents, while the District Hospital is registered to provide short stay beds for 35 residents.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jackie Daly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and 'D'.

Jackie Daly
Head of Service for Older People

