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**Deputy Fergus O'Dowd TD,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.**

Dear Deputy O'Dowd,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to this Department for response.

PQ 2476/24: To ask the Minister for Health to provide on update on the Programme for Government commitment on the development and targeted expansion and availability of step-down facilities across each of the CHO areas, since the establishment of the Government; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

A targeted Capital Investment Programme commenced in 2016 to mitigate the loss of beds due to SI293 regulations with Community Nursing Units which significantly impacted on publicly managed facilities. The Programme encompasses a total of 88 units across all 9 CHO's and to date 54 units have been completed. A further 8 units will be completed in 2024 with the remaining projects in various stages of planning with completion dates in 2025 and 2026. While this programme essentially targets replacement beds due of SI293, a number of projects are also new builds and will provide targeted and additional long and short term care beds increasing stepdown capacity across each of the CHO areas.

Kind Regards,

**Denise Tighe
General Manager
National Services for Older People**