



Deputy David Cullinane
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

6th August 2024

PQ 30342/24 - To ask the Minister for Health the estimated cost, capital and current, of implementing the acute bed capacity plan; the amount by year; the number of beds currently funded in existing NDP ceilings; the number of beds which will require new funding and the amount, in tabular form. – Deputy David Cullinane

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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.

The bed capacity expansion plan includes a total of n = 3438 additional acute beds and n= 929 replacement acute beds proposed to be delivered during the remainder of 2024 up to 2031 as set out hereunder by year.

	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029-2031	Totals
Total additional beds	127	284	223	476	812	1516	3438*
Total replacement beds	50	376	0	0	46	409	929
Total beds	177	660	223	476	858	1925	4367

*Includes 106 critical care beds

A large number of factors have a bearing on the cost of implementing the acute bed capacity plan.

The capital cost includes considerations such as new construction or refurbishment; the extent of enabling, decant and site preparation works for the project; extent of IPC measures; scope of development and economies of scale; site specific considerations including planning conditions; and the scope of related ancillary upgrade of refurbishment works necessary.

For indicative purposes, a capital cost range of €0.75m to €1.3m per acute bed could be estimated. External factors such as inflation rates, supply chain issues & availability of resources can and will influence the capital costs of projects throughout the lifetime of the plan. It should also be noted that this cost range per bed relates to the in-patient / ward accommodation, and does not account for key clinical departments such as radiology, operating departments, neurology etc.; which are project specific and sit outside of this cost range.

The revenue costs are estimated on a range of 3 to 4 WTE per acute inpatient bed, and an indicative figure of 9 WTE per critical care bed, again dependent on the bed type, location, complexity of service, specialty etc.

The NDP allocation for 2024 is already in the funding envelope, and a total of €3,020m is allocated for 2025 and 2026, which includes bed plan requirements for all services. We do not currently have sight of NDP allocations post 2026.

I trust this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jacqueline McNulty". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jacqueline McNulty

General Manager Access & Integration