



**Rochtain agus Imeascadh**

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**Deputy Darren O Rourke**  
**Dáil Éireann**  
**Leinster House**  
**Dublin 2**

23rd July 2024

**PQ 32289/24 - To ask the Minister for Health the estimated costs, including staffing, required to increase the number of critical care beds nationwide to 405.**

Dear Deputy O Rourke,

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 Government's strategic multi-year plan for additional permanent adult critical care capacity was developed in 2020 to support the long-term strategic goal of increasing overall adult critical care bed capacity. The plan is clinically led and aligns with the National Critical Care Clinical Programmes "hub and spoke" Model of Care and the vision set out in Sláintecare of "right care, right place, right time".

This Strategic Plan is planned over two phases to bring bed capacity to 458 beds at the end of Phase 2, to improve the capacity and capability of the system to provide critical care in line with the Model of Care, and includes investment in the development of the Critical Care Retrieval Service and education and training initiatives to develop the necessary skilled workforce.

Significant investment of €77m between 2021 and 2022 has enabled a 28% increase in the number of critical care beds from 258 Critical Care beds in March 2020 to 334 in June 2024.

In NSP24, the HSE planned to increase the total number of funded critical care beds to 352 by the end of 2024. As of end of June 2024, there are a further 18 critical care beds profiled for delivery:-

Hospital	No of Beds
Mater	8
SVUH	6
SJH	2
SUH	1
MRHT	1



Phase 2 of the Critical Care Strategic Plan commits to the development of new build capacity to support the delivery of a further 106 beds at five prioritised sites. These five sites are Beaumont, Mater, Cork University Hospital, St James, and St Vincent's University Hospital. All five sites are currently progressing through the necessary Capital approval processes.

I have been advised by the Healthcare Pricing Office (HPO) that the estimated revenue cost for a Level 3 Critical Care (ICU) bed is €850,000. I am advised by HSE Estates that the capital cost of a Critical Care bed ranges from €1.6m to €1.9m (as at June 2022).

Based on these estimated figures, the revenue cost to add an additional 53 beds ICU (to bring the total planned for end 2024 at 352 to your total of 405) would be €45m. Using the higher estimate of €1.9m due to increasing capital costs, a capital cost of €107m would be estimated.

I trust this is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Carol Ivory', written in a cursive style.

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**Carol Ivory**  
**General Manager, Access & Integration**