

20th November 2024

Deputy Thomas Gould, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 45721/24:

“To ask the Minister for Health the number of beds currently operational in Heather House; the number temporarily closed; and the reason for this closure.”

PQ ref 45722/24:

“To ask the Minister for Health the number of people on a waiting list for Heather House”

Dear Deputy Gould,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

With regard to **PQ ref 45721/24**, as of today’s date Heather House CNU has a total of 65 beds open for the provision of long term care to residents. All of these beds are fully open for admission and the beds are currently occupied.

The Poppy Unit at Heather House was previously a 25 bedded unit; this unit is now being reconfigured to provide 19 dementia-specific beds. As these refurbishment works are currently ongoing, the 19 beds in this unit are not at present open to admissions. Works are anticipated to be completed in Q2/3 2025.

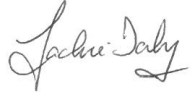
On the second floor of Heather House, Daisy Unit, which is above the Poppy Unit, now requires additional fire safety works in terms of the fire certification which is also impacting on the full occupancy of the service; these beds are temporarily closed while essential fire safety works are on-going.

In response to **PQ ref 45722/24**, there are currently 22 people on the general waiting list for Heather House and 30 people on the dementia-specific waiting list. It is important to note, however, that only 4 people on the general waiting list are at home - the remaining 18 people are currently accommodated in other residential units but wish to remain on the waiting list for transfer to Heather House when a vacancy arises. Similarly, only 2 people on the dementia-specific waiting list are at home, the remaining 28 people are currently accommodated in other residential facilities.

Service users and their families may choose to be added to multiple bed waiting lists across different care facilities. A person may decline a placement offer if the vacancy arises in a multiple occupancy room and opt to wait until a single-occupancy room becomes available. An offer may also be declined if the person has settled in their current location.

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

Yours sincerely,



Jackie Daly
Head of Service for Older Persons

