



Head of Service for Older Persons
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare
Health Service Executive
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20th November 2024

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

PQ ref 45723/24:

"To ask the Minister for Health the number of people currently awaiting a nursing home place in Cork".

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.

By way of background in relation to waiting lists for our HSE Residential Units for Older Persons, the availability of residential care in public nursing homes is an important component of the overall community health care provision. Waiting lists need to be considered under the following contexts:

- Service Users and their families may put themselves on multiple bed waiting lists across different care facilities.
- It is noted that where there are waiting lists for publically managed care facilities and that there is bed capacity, Service Users may decline a bed if it is situated in a multiple occupancy room.
- Once an applicant is deemed to require care through the Nursing Home Support Scheme they are not denied a service due to a lack of bed availability but may prefer to wait for a facility of their choice to become available.
- The HSE is continuing a major capital building programme across its Community Nursing Facilities for the purpose of SI 293 compliance. This programme at times may result in temporary bed closures while refurbishments are taking place. Despite these challenges, the HSE is continuing to provide a residential care service that is focused on quality and safety while also meeting the needs of the individual Service User.

Our Community Hospital waiting lists are not a reflection of the number of people who do not have a residential placement; the majority of those people waitlisted have already availed of a bed in another unit. They remain on the waiting list for their preferred unit(s) as per their wishes but we regularly find that when a vacancy does arise and we offer a placement in one of our public units, the offer is often declined because the person has settled in their current location.

With regard to **PQ ref 45723/24**, the HSE can only provide waiting list data in relation to our own HSE community hospitals/community nursing units. Private nursing homes are privately owned and manage their own waiting lists and admission criteria; the HSE has no input into this process.

Within Cork city and its environs, waiting lists for our HSE residential units currently comprise 107 people. This total encompasses waiting list data for HSE units in the greater city area i.e. St Finbarr's Hospital, Heather House CNU, Farranlea Road CNU and Ballincollig CNU. It is important to note that 91 of those waitlisted are currently accommodated in other residential facilities and have opted to remain on a preferred HSE unit's waiting list until a vacancy arises, at which time they may choose to remain in their current accommodation or opt to take up the available bed.

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