



Rochtain agus Imeascadh

Aonad 4A, Áras Dargan, An Ceantar Theas,
An Bóthar Míleata, Cill Mhaighneann, Baile
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Deputy Cathal Crowe
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

4th November 2024

PQ 42848/24 - To ask the Minister for Health to provide the estimated full-year cost to implement the strategic plan for critical care; and the number of additional beds that would open

Dear Deputy Crowe,

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 Critical Care Strategic Plan was adopted by the Government in 2020 and its aim was to increase adult critical care capacity in two Phases. Phase 1 encompassed the provision of additional adult critical care capacity within existing hospital hub sites while Phase 2 focused on substantial new build capacity across 5 identified hospital sites; Beaumont, SVUH, SJH, MMUH and CUH. All of the Phases are aligned with the Model of Care and focused on the provision of additional required capacity in hub sites.

Under the HSE service plans from 2021 to date, the government has invested more than €80m in the delivery of additional adult critical care capacity as part of Phase 1. To date 82 additional adult critical care beds have been delivered under Phase 1 with a further 2 profiled for delivery in 2024. The balance of 10 beds to bring Phase 1 capacity to completion are profiled for delivery in 2025 i.e. 6 beds in SVUH and 4 beds in MMUH. These beds were approved to progress under NSP24 but due to issues of recruitment and retention as well as delays in refurbishment, these beds are now expected to be delivered in 2025.

Phase 1 of the Critical Care Strategic Plan also saw investment in non-bed capacity in critical care including the development of the Critical Care Retrieval Services, the development of the ANP Critical Care Outreach Service as well as significant support for education for critical care nursing and the development of a Critical Care Information System for those critical care units who do not have an information system.

Phase 2 of the Critical Care Strategic Plan provides for the delivery of 106 new adult critical care beds which are new builds. Accordingly, these projects are managed under the Public Spending Code relating to Capital build. All of these projects are in the early stages of design work and capital funding has been provided to support that work. The projects are complex in that they form part of bigger capacity projects on each of the sites. Please see Appendix 1 below for further details.

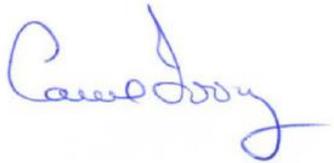
I am advised by HSE Estates that the capital cost of a Critical Care bed ranges from €1.6m to €1.9m (as at June 2022). I am advised by the Healthcare Pricing Office (HPO) that the estimated revenue cost for a Level 3 Critical Care (ICU) bed is €850,000.

As the 106 additional adult critical care beds in Phase 2 are still in design phase, using the higher estimate of €1.9m due to increasing capital costs, a capital cost of €201m would be estimated. This estimate does not include the costs of enabling works required given the

complex project delivery in busy crowded Model 4 hospital sites. The estimated revenue cost to add an additional 106 ICU beds would be €90m.

I trust this is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Carol Ivory', with a stylized, cursive script.

Carol Ivory
General Manager, Access & Integration



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| Initiative | Beds allocated in Phase 2 | HSE Acute Inpatient Bed Capacity Expansion Programme 2024 to 2031- Delivery Timelines | Progress Report from Capital & Estates as at 18 th October 2024 |
|---|---------------------------|---|---|
| St. James's Hospital | 19 | 2029-2031 | To seek formal approval from HSE Board in order to proceed to the next stage, namely the preparation of a Pre-Tender – Detailed Project Brief and Procurement Strategy (Gateway 2) |
| St Vincent's University Hospital | 19 | 2029-2031 | Stage 2 of the St Vincent's University Hospital Design Team Framework tender has been uploaded to E-Tenders with a return date of 25/11/2024. It is expected that this will be evaluated and appointed by year end 2024/January 2025. |
| Cork University Hospital | 34 | 2029-2031 | The CUH leadership Team are modelling the Health Planning Capacity requirements for the CUH Campus including critical care beds. This exercise is being conducted through a series of workshop engagements and is forecast to complete end Q4 2024. |
| Beaumont Hospital | 22 | 2029-2031 | Beaumont Hospital Critical Care Block – at initial design stage but requires Endoscopy block to be relocated prior to freeing up Critical Care Block site. Capital allocation approval was received for the development to provide 64 critical care beds. |
| MMUH | 12 | 2029-2031 | Design Team appointed and project progressing through early stages of design. |