



**Ceann Seirbhísí Daoine Scothaosta**

Limistéar Cúram Sláinte Pobail an  
Oirdheiscirt | Lacken |  
Bóthar Bhaile Átha Cliath | Cill Chainnigh |  
R95 NV08

**Head of Service Older  
Persons**

South East Community  
Healthcare Area | Lacken |  
Dublin Road | Kilkenny |  
R95 NV08

Tel: 056 7784319

7<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Mr. Mattie McGrath, T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 1703/25**

**To ask the Minister for Health if he will re-consider the re-opening of St. Brigid's Palliative Care Unit in Carrick on Suir, Co. Tipperary; the current position on the matter; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy McGrath,

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

*I have examined the matter and the following outlines the current position.*

The cessation of short stay inpatient services at St. Brigid's Hospital has been previously well documented. In brief, St. Brigid's was not considered suitable to support the level of refurbishment and adaptations required to resume short stay inpatient services in line with safer better health care guidelines and Infection, Prevention and Control Requirements and welfare and dignity requirements.

A number of building adaptations were subsequently made to the building to preserve the community ethos and to transition the service to enable St. Brigid's to be utilised as community services health centre.

With regard to palliative care, consideration as to the most appropriate residential setting for palliative care beds takes into account population area need and clinical governance.

Palliative Care Services have been developed in line with national policy, Sláintecare, with palliative care bed provision for this area available as follows:

- **Level 3 Beds:** 20 bed inpatient specialist service in University Hospital Waterford. The South East Palliative Care Centre is the hub for palliative care for counties Carlow, Kilkenny, Waterford, Wexford and South Tipperary and has built on the existing Consultant led integrated model of care in place across acute hospitals and community healthcare services in that region.
- **Level 2 Beds:** 2 palliative care beds are provided in St Anthony's Unit, Clonmel, St Theresa's Hospital, Clogheen and 1 bed in Cluain Arann, Tipperary Town.



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With the development of the new replacement Community Nursing Unit (50 bed general long stay unit), there is agreement that three Level 2 Palliative Care Beds will be allocated on a full time basis.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

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**Helen McDaid**  
**Head of Service Older Persons**  
**South East Community Healthcare**