



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Rannóg na nOspidéal Géarmhíochaine  
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Ospidéal Dr. Steevens  
BÁC 8

Acute Hospitals Division  
Health Service Executive  
Dr. Steevens' Hospital  
Dublin 8  
Tel. 01-6352000

23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2015

Deputy Billy Kelleher, TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ 41857/15 \*To ask the Minister for Health the number of additional acute hospital beds that have become available in 2015; and the estimated full-year cost of providing these.**

**- Billy Kelleher.**

Dear Deputy Kelleher,

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

**Response:**

As part of the Winter Initiative, funding of €8.8M in 2015 was provided to support the phased re-opening of up to 301 beds (full year cost in 2016 is €32M). In addition, the HSE also identified a further 154 closed beds in the system which it is progressing to re-open in order to support hospitals during the winter period. The attached tables refer. Hospitals are in the process of recruiting staff to support this initiative for the winter period to ensure opening of all available capacity. The recruitment of staff is being progressed through HSE campaigns and it is hoped that they will be employed as direct HSE staff; however, given the dearth of staffing in some grades agency staffing may be required.

It should be noted that the numbers identified are the beds available at a particular date in time, bed numbers available can fluctuate due to short term closures, even for 24 hours, for example, for infection control purposes.

An additional 301 beds are currently being commissioned in accordance with the Winter Bed Initiative 2015 approved by Minister Varadkar. Currently there are 201 of these beds available to meet the winter surge. The remainder of these beds will be available in January and February 2016. There are also 115 of 154 closed beds currently available to support hospitals through the winter surge period.

While the number and availability of additional beds clearly an important factor, the understanding and focus has shifted to a more holistic approach to which the aim is to put the patient or service user in the right place in the system where his/her needs will be best be met.

To this end, the HSE is continually developing and improving day services and developments which facilitate hospital admission avoidance, for example:

- Increased provision of CIT services which support IV drug administration in the home. This approach is in line with international best practice which is moving towards a model of healthcare which maximises the provision of care within Ambulatory Care settings.

- Day surgery rates have been increased e.g. 60% of Laparoscopic cholecystectomy (removal of gall bladder) is to be carried out as a day case procedure.
- Medical Assessment Units and Acute Medical Assessment Units have been opened at all major hospitals.
- OPAT or Outpatient Parenteral Antimicrobial Therapy (intravenous administration of antibiotics) whether organised at outpatients departments, in the community or at home, can deliver bed-day and cost savings and reduce risk of healthcare associated infections (HAIs).

In addition to the above, funding of €74M has been provided to reduce the number of delayed discharges, therefore freeing up bed capacity in Acute Hospitals. This has positively impacted delayed discharges from its peak in November 2015 of 830 to 568 in December 2015, which is a reduction of 32%.

I trust this answers your question to your satisfaction.

Yours sincerely,



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**Angela Fitzgerald**  
**Deputy National Director**  
**Acute Hospitals Division**

**Table 1: Funding allocations for acute hospitals and each hospital Group**

<b>Project Name – Winter Initiative</b>	<b>CapEx</b>	<b>Revenue 2015</b>
<b>RCSI Hospital Group &amp; CHO Area</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1.075</b>
<b>OLOL Winter Capacity</b>		
Open Modular Unit	0.00	0.48
12 Transitional Care Beds Louth County	0.00	0.13
<b>Beaumont Winter Capacity</b> Expansion of Day Hospital from 2 to 5 days	0.00	0.19
<b>Connolly Winter Capacity</b> Open 24 Bed Cherry Ward	0.00	0.27
<b>Ireland East Hospital Group &amp; CHO Area</b>	<b>1.06</b>	<b>1.62</b>
<b>SVUH Winter Capacity</b> 22 Medical Beds to open Nov	0.39	0.44
SCH Loughlinstown Renovate ward for 10 beds & 3 isolation rooms for SVUH	0.30	0.26
<b>St. Lukes Winter Capacity</b> Covert Day ward into 12 Bed inpatient unit	0.09	0.22
	<b>CapEx</b>	<b>Revenue 2015</b>
<b>Wexford</b> Convert discharge lounge into 10 bed ward	0.00	0.18
<b>OL Navan Capacity</b> 15 additional rehabilitation beds NCP Frail Elderly	0.13	0.31
<b>Cappagh Winter Capacity</b> 10 additional rehabilitation beds in Cappagh	0.15	0.21
<b>Dublin Midlands Hospital Group &amp; CHO Area</b>	<b>0.47</b>	<b>0.66</b>
<b>Tallaght Capacity Actions</b> 16 additional beds	0.60	0.47
2nd phase ED opening	0.00	0.19
<b>University of Limerick Hospital Group</b>	<b>4.95</b>	<b>2.63</b>

<b>University Hospital Limerick</b> 24 Bed Unit includ 6 acute stroke beds	0.00	2.50
5 Single rooms for cystic fibrosis	0.00	0.00
6 Additional beds in overflow	4.50	0.00
St. Johns Rehab unit for Elderly	0.45	0.13
<b>South/South West Hospital Group &amp; CHO Area</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>0.82</b>
<b>Cork UH Winter Capacity</b> 10 beds additional overflow	0.00	0.55
20 closed beds to be opened	0.00	0.55
<b>Mercy UH Winer Capacity</b> 18 Care of Elderly Beds in off-site unit	1.00	0.23
<b>South Tipperary General Hospital</b> 4 New ED Bays	0.40	0.04
<b>Saolta Hospital Group &amp; CHO Area</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1.39</b>
<b>Merlin Park</b> 14 rehab beds	0	0.20
<b>GUH:</b> Conversion of Physio/Social Work Dept to 30 Medical Beds	0	0.53
	<b>CapEx</b>	<b>Revenue 2015</b>
<b>Mayo Winter Capacity</b> Extend opening times for radiology and cardiac services	0	0.25
<b>Letterkenny Winter Capacity</b> 10 overflow beds	0.00	0.18
<b>Portiuncula Winter Capacity</b> 5 Overflow Beds	0.00	0.10
<b>All Sites</b> Recruit ANP to increase non-admitted PET Times	0.00	0.13
<b>National Childrens Hospital Group</b>	<b>0.68</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Childrens UH Winter Capacity</b> 14 additional in-patient beds <b>Tallaght Hospital (Childrens) Short Stay Observation Unit</b>	0.68	0

Acute Totals: Revenue 2015 (€m) – 8.875, Capital (€m) –8.01



**Table 2: Number of beds, by Hospital identified in early to open in November 2015 to ease pressure on Emergency Departments through the Winter Period**

<b>Hospital</b>	<b>Beds</b>
Oll Drogheda	8
Louth County	12
Beaumont	0
Connolly	24
St. Vincent's	22
Loughlinstown	10
Kilkenny	12
Wexford	10
Navan	15
Cappagh	10
Tallaght	16
Tallaght	0
Limerick	17
Limerick	5
Limerick	5
St. Johns	0
Cork University	10
Cork University	20
Mercy University	18
South Tipperary	0
Merlin Park	14
Galway	30
Mayo	0
Letterkenny	10
Portiuncla	5
Saolta	0
Temple St	14
Tallaght Paeds	14
	<b>301</b>

**Table 3: Closed Beds – Progressing to Re-open**

<b>Hospital</b>	<b>Beds Closed 8<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>Re-opened Oct.</b>	<b>Open as of 18<sup>th</sup> Dec 2015</b>
Galway	17	0	0
Beaumont	33	0	21
UL	29	4	27
Naas	15	15	15
SJH	5	0	5
Tullamore	15	15	15
St. John's	20	0	12
CUH	20	0	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>115</b>