

03 January 2020

**PQ 53566/19 To ask the Minister for Health the position regarding orthopaedic treatment at Merlin Park University Hospital; the progress of plans for new operating theatre facilities; when the backlog of persons waiting for orthopaedic treatment at the hospital will be cleared; the steps being taken to tackle the waiting list; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Noel Grealish**

Dear Deputy Grealish

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply to you directly in the context of the request for information referenced above, the following outlines the situation.

an application for Capital funding for the provision of Orthopaedic theatres in Merlin Park University Hospital has been submitted via the National Capital Steering Committee.


This project is to be included in the 2020 capital plan.

A Project Design Team has been appointed and a contractor pre-qualification process will commence in early 2020.

The Orthopaedic service has been working at reduced operating capacity since September 2017 there is only 1 elective theatre currently available in Merlin Park, we are also trying to increase capacity via an extended working day where possible and also have utilised theatre rental capacity as a pilot with one surgeon.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely



Chris Kane

General Manager

Galway University Hospitals