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29th January 2019

Michael McGrath T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 2002/19

“To ask the Minister for Health the details, including locations and indicative timelines, of plans for the roll out of primary care centres across Cork city and county; the details of the various stages in the process; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy McGrath,

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.

As outlined in a number of policy documents (most recently the Sláinte Care Implementation Strategy) it is Government policy to transfer activity currently taking place in the acute setting to a more appropriate setting in Primary Care. The development of a primary care centre infrastructure to support such a transfer of activity is essential. The HSE's commitment to the development of Primary Care Centres across the country is outlined in its Capital Development Plan. These centres aim to be a one stop shop providing a range of primary care team services such as GP's, Community Nursing, Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists, Speech Therapists, Dieticians, Counsellors and in some cases dental and mental health services. They are primarily developed as public private partnership builds or as long term operational leases. All applications to progress any of these arrangements require the approval of the HSE's national property committee. The application process for such approval requires Cork Kerry Community Healthcare to identify the need for the development of such a facility in line with population health needs and the areas proximity to existing or planned primary care centres.

The various stages involved in the development of a Primary Care Centre are as follows:

- 1 Expressions of interest sought.
- 2 Applications Assessed.
- 3 Application to Property Committee to approve.
- 4 Letter of intent to proceed issued.
- 5 Planning Permission sought.
- 7 Legal agreements finalised.
- 8 Consultation with staff re layout.
- 9 Build commences.
- 10 Handover to HSE.
- 11 Commissioning- i.e. equipping, services telephone, IT etc.
- 12 Phased opening.

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare opened St Mary's Primary Care Centre, Gurrabraher to the public in October, 2018. This centre comprises of 6,210 square metres and is the largest of its kind in Ireland. There are 8 other Primary Care Centres in operation in Cork – Mizen, Carrigaline, Kinsale, Blackrock Hall, Macroom, Charleville, Mallow and Mitchelstown.

Below is a list of Primary Care centres currently in the development process with anticipated completion dates over the next 2-3 years.

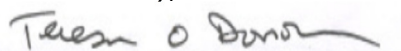
	Anticipated Opening
Bantry	Q3 2019
Clonakilty	Q4 2019
Carrigtowhill	Q1 2019
Newmarket	Q2 2019
Castletownbere	Q1 2020
Ballincollig	Q4 2020
Cobh	Q2 2020
Fermoy	Q2 2020
Blarney	Q4 2020
Bandon	Q4 2020
Kanturk	Q4 2020
Togher	2021

Based on a national needs assessment, a number of areas in Cork were identified as areas requiring the provision of a new Primary Care Centre. However, to date no acceptable proposal for the provision of a centre has been received. It is planned to re advertise for these areas in Quarter 1, 2019.

The development of all primary care centres is subject to GP commitment and completion of the build to the HSE specification.

If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Teresa O' Donovan
Head of Service - Primary Care,
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare