

15th July 2019

PQ 27934/19 To ask the Minister for Health when the orthopaedic theatres at Merlin Park Hospital, Galway which have been closed since September 2017 will be reinstated; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Catherine Connolly

Dear Deputy Connolly

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.

The HSE terminated its letter of intent with the successful provider for the leased solution for this project in March 2019 after failing to reach agreement on the terms of the contract.

A Procurement report was commissioned by the HSE and the Traditional Rapid Build option was recommended by the appointed consultants as the most favourable option in terms of delivery of the project, costs and risk. A programme for the Traditional Rapid Build option has been developed which will process once Capital funding has been approved.

The Capital submission was submitted to the National Capital & Property Steering Committee (NC&PSG) on the 11th June for consideration. The NC&PSG decision log outcome/ status of the Project is that it is 'Recommended for approval subject to availability of funding'. This aspect is being clarified between National Estates and Acute Services.

In addition, we have commenced the procurement of the remainder of the Design Team by an open tender procedure to expedite the process of selection. The closing date for return of tenders is the 7th August 2019. Once the tenders have been received we will then commence the assessment and expect to be in a position to appoint the remainder of the design team disciplines in September.

Once the Design Team is in place, funding clarified and a planning decision made we will be able to detail a programme with more accuracy, at present we expect to have a contractor in place in the first quarter of 2020.

I trust this clarifies the matter,

Yours sincerely



Chris Kane
General Manager
Galway University Hospitals