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16TH June 2020,

Deputy Duncan Smith Dail Eireann Dublin 2.

PQ: 8897/20

To ask the Minister for Health if he has communicated with the National Procurement Board since 1 March 2020 in relation to increased cost projections of the National Forensic Mental Health Service Hospital in Portrane, County Dublin caused by the Covid-19 pandemic; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Smith,

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.

The HSE deemed the works at NFMHS to be essential works in response to the Covid-19 National emergency. The contractor was requested to continue work on site, to provide early delivery of 170 beds on a temporary basis in line with the requirements of the Covid-19 National Action Plan. The Works Requirements were amended to suit the purpose of temporary occupation.

The costs associated with this are not yet fully agreed but are on an open book basis with the contractor. Any additional costs incurred in relation to COVID-19 will be assigned to the National Covid Emergency Works Programme and these costs have been reported on a weekly basis.

The HSE is in discussion with the contractor regarding the completion of the works at the NFMHS in compliance with the public health measures and DPER guidance.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours Sincerely

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Jim Ryan Assistant National Director Head of Operations

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