



Ms. Louise O'Reilly, TD,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

17th June 2020

PQ 9613/20 * To ask the Minister for Health the number of requests for capital health projects which have been made and which have not been precommitted under existing capital plans but have been applied for; the estimated cost of such requests; and the projects with precommitted funding for each year for the next five years and frontloading of funding - Louise O'Reilly

Dear Deputy O'Reilly,

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.

There have been hundreds of requests for capital for health projects not already pre-committed to. All capital development proposals must progress through detailed appraisal, planning, design and procurement, in line with the requirements of the Public Spending Code, before a funding requirement or timeline can be established. The final decision to proceed with the construction of a project cannot be made until the tender process has been completed and the costings reviewed to ensure that the proposal delivers value for money and remains affordable, and that sufficient funding is available to fund the project to completion, including equipping and commissioning costs. The delivery of capital projects is a dynamic process and is subject to the successful completion of the various approval stages. The HSE actively manages the capital programme in order to ensure it has flexibility to progress as many projects as possible within the available funding, particularly in the event of any project not progressing as anticipated.

Each year the Health Service Executive submits a Capital Plan to the Minister of Health in accordance with the requirements of the Health Act 2004 as amended by the Health Service Executive (Financial Matters) Act 2014. Projects included in the Capital Plan 2020 include those arising from Government priorities, national strategies, health service objectives, input from frontline services and the Estates function and are supported by strategic input at corporate level. The Capital Plan takes cognisance of the recent Government initiatives such as Project Ireland 2040: National Development Plan 2018-2027 and Sláintecare Implementation Strategy.

In compiling the Capital Plan 2020 priority is given to the following projects and programmes:

- Contractual commitments - all projects in construction which are cashflowed to completion.
- Contractual commitments - all projects in design will be progressed to tender stage.
- Infrastructural risk - funding for Minor Capital, the Equipment Replacement Programme and the Ambulance Replacement Programme. These allocations are increased from 2019 levels to reflect the level of risk. There is also provision made in these allocations to fund items charged to revenue in previous years.
- National Children's Hospital – funding in line with the July 2019 profile.
- Other Government Priority such as the NFMHS Hospital (Relocation of the Central Mental Hospital (CMH) to Portrane), National Maternity Hospital (NMH) relocation to St. Vincent's Hospital Campus, Radiation Oncology and the National Rehabilitation Hospital.
- Older Person Residential HIQA Compliance allocation and Intellectual Disability Decongregation allocations.

- Public Private Partnerships – funding allocated for both the Primary Care Centre PPP (Unitary payments) and the Community Nursing Unit Programme PPP (procurement commenced).
- Programme for Partnership Government Projects – Beaumont Emergency Departments and Cystic Fibrosis projects, Galway University Hospital Emergency Department and Crumlin Children's Hospital Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (co-funded with Northern Ireland).
- Additional Capacity Programme.
- Funding to progress a prioritised investment programme to include projects already in design.
- Funding is being allocated to progress the projects and programmes listed in the Government's National Development Plan 2018-2027 and projects that will enable the implementation of Sláintecare. These include Elective Hospitals, implementation of the Maternity Strategy, implementation of the National Trauma Strategy, additional capacity, diagnostics in Primary Care Centres, etc.

The HSE'S allocation in 2020 is €774m.

In normal circumstances submissions for individual projects are not made to the Department of Health (DoH) outside of the Capital Plan submission. At present the Capital Plan 2020 is being reviewed and revised to take account of the impact of Covid-19 which resulted in delays on many projects and the funding of an emergency Covid-19 programme of works.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Curran', written in a cursive style.

Jim Curran
National Director, Estates