



Mr. Neale Richmond, TD,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

22nd September 2020

PQ 21119/20 * To ask the Minister for Health the status of the planning and development of a community hospital in Ennis, County Clare to replace the existing St. Joseph's facility; and if he will make a statement on the matter. - Neale Richmond

Dear Deputy Richmond,

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.

The HSE has agreed to purchase the site comprising 5.09 acres at Diocesan lands located near the Turnpike in Ennis, Co. Clare for the new 100-bed Community Nursing Unit. (CNU) The project will see a new facility providing a 100-bed HIQA compliant CNU for long stay residents. The unit will include 88 single rooms, 4 twin rooms and 4 palliative care rooms and will be designed to comply with the "National Quality Standards for Residential Care Settings for Older People in Ireland" published by HIQA in 2009. The site selection comes after an extensive option appraisal of a number of sites in the Ennis environs and represents the best option available to the HSE. The purchase of the site is subject to planning permission for the development of a Community Nursing Unit. The contracts are signed and exchanged. The first stage of procurement of a design team has commenced and it is planned to have a full design team appointed before the end of the year. The expected timeframe for the project will be in the region of 3 years following design team appointment.

Yours sincerely,

Jim Curran
National Director, Estates