



Mr. David Cullinane, TD,  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

22<sup>nd</sup> September 2020

**PQ 21398/20 \* To ask the Minister for Health the health capital plans or proposals submitted to his Department and the HSE by acute hospitals and other health division's by proposal or plan; if the plan is committed or non-committed in relation to refunding by hospital and hospital group and other health sectors in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -David Cullinane**

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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.

All capital development proposals must be approved by the relevant Hospital Group or Community Health Organisation (CHO) before being forwarded to the relevant HSE Directorate for support/approval and prioritisation. The proposal is then submitted to the HSE National Capital and Property Steering Committee. The committee comprises of officials from the acute care and community care directorates, along with HSE Finance and the Estates Office. The role of the National Capital and Property Steering Committee is to prioritise projects and recommend them for inclusion in the HSE's multi-annual Capital Plan, subject to funding availability.

The HSE has developed a draft Capital Plan for 2020 having regard to the available funding, the number of large national capital projects currently underway, and the cashflow requirements and priorities attaching to each project. All projects are considered as part of this process.

It is important to recognise that all capital development proposals must progress through a number of approval stages, in line with the Public Spending Code, including detailed appraisal, planning, design and procurement before a firm timeline or funding requirement 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, which can impact on the timeline for delivery.

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.

The Capital Plan 2020 has been reviewed and revised and submitted to the Department of Health for approval.

Yours sincerely,

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

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**Jim Curran**  
**National Director, Estates**