

**3rd May 2020**

Deputy Brendan Smith T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2  
E: [brendan.smith@oireachtas.ie](mailto:brendan.smith@oireachtas.ie)

**Re: PQ 22551/21 – Additional capacity, Cappagh Hospital**

**“To ask the Minister for Health if additional capacity will be provided without further delay at the National Orthopaedic Hospital, Cappagh in view of delays in persons being assessed and having orthopaedic procedures carried out; if his attention has been drawn to the long waiting times for paediatric orthopaedics resulting in children not receiving interventions in a timely manner; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”**

Dear Deputy Smith,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question seeking an update on additional capacity in the National Orthopaedic Hospital Cappagh, which has been referred to the Ireland East Hospital Group for direct response.

I have had this matter examined and am advised that National Orthopaedic Hospital Cappagh is the largest orthopaedic Hospital in Ireland and is a Centre of Excellence in the provision of Orthopaedic Services. The Hospital consistently meets and surpasses all HSE and NTPF targets and achieves financial breakeven year on year.

National Orthopaedic Hospital Cappagh is at an advanced stage of planning for a major development (via modular build). The Proposal is for the development of:

- 10 Bed High Dependency Unit (“HDU”)
- 76 Bed single occupancy Ward Block
- 3 additional Operating Theatres

Last year, at the request of the HSE, National Orthopaedic Hospital Cappagh developed a Cost Benefit Analysis (“CBA”) which demonstrated the proposed development would deliver significant economic benefits with the Net Present Value exceeding €877m (over the appraisal period of 30 years), and a Benefit to Cost ratio (BCR) of 2.3. The CBA was submitted to the HSE in October 2020.

The growth in demand for Orthopaedic Surgery in both the Paediatric and Adult population has seen a significant rise in referrals to National Orthopaedic Hospital Cappagh. There are currently 2,600 patients waiting for a procedure on the Hospital’s waiting list. Waiting Lists from other sites are also due to be transferred to this list shortly.



The progression of the proposed development would enable National Orthopaedic Hospital Cappagh to practically double its current volume of surgical procedures. In line with Slaintecare recommendations, this would have an immediate impact on not just National Orthopaedic Hospital Cappagh's waiting lists, but also support the transfer of Orthopaedics from other sites, thus freeing up bed capacity in major acute hospitals for non-elective services. Of note, this week National Orthopaedic Hospital Cappagh commenced a new initiative with CHI to reduce growing paediatric waiting lists for time dependent surgery.

The Hospital currently has 5 theatres, 4 are fully operational and the 5th is operational on a part-time basis. The HDU in its current state is impeding on further expansion of activity and the Hospital's ability to have the 5th theatre fully operational. The HDU is a 'very high' risk item on the hospital's risk register (and has been for some time now) due to its infrastructural deficits. COVID has also impacted on ward bed capacity, as the main surgical wards are old style nightingale wards and do not meet current standards and bed numbers have reduced. There is a unique opportunity now to commence this development and to avail of COVID relaxed planning measures, at a reduced cost.

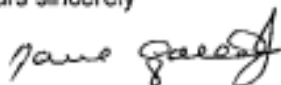
Please see below a Summary of the proposed Costs and Timeframe for delivery of the Modular Build only. As costs refer to the Modular Build element only, the figures exclude: VAT, Professional Fees, Planning & Design Fees, enabling works including connection to existing services and buildings. (Of note the market was tested with costs received from two separate providers for the modular build and there was no material variation between both sets of costs).

Phase	Location	Sqm	HDU Beds	Inpatient Beds	Estimated Delivery Time	Estimated Cost (ex. VAT)
1a	Ground Floor	966	10	-	3 months	€5.383M
1b	Ground Floor	1,145	-	16	5 months	€5.496M
2a	1 <sup>st</sup> Floor	2,160	-	30	8 months	€10.368M
2b	2nd Floor	2,160	-	30	8 months	€10.368M
3 Extra Theatres	Standalone	618	-	-	6 months	€3.00M
<b>Totals</b>		<b>6,431</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>76</b>		<b>€34.615M</b>

There is now a sense of urgency for the delivery of this project as the demand for orthopaedic surgery is continuing its upward trajectory. There is ample room for development on the Hospital's 30 acre site. This Project can be delivered within the timelines indicated above. National Orthopaedic Hospital Cappagh can be a major part of the solution to alleviate growing waiting lists for Adult and Paediatric Orthopaedic Surgery.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely



Paul Gallagher  
Chief Director of Nursing and Midwifery

