



Oifig Cheannasaí na Caipiteal agus nEastát
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Ms Catherine Connolly, TD,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

16th December 2021

PQ 59533/21/21*; To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Questions Nos. 435 and 436 of 13 June 2021, the status of the Strategic Assessment Report and Preliminary Business Case Report required in respect of the proposed emergency department and women and children's block in University Hospital Galway; his plans to publish these reports; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Catherine Connolly.

Dear Deputy Connolly,

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 proposed new ED and Women & Children's project is a large and complex one. The overall cost is in the region of €275-€300 million and the project requires several enabling works contracts to be completed on site before the main project works could commence construction. There is a need to clear the site / zone to be able to build the new block and also there are significant enabling works particularly in terms of existing electrical services and other utilities. It is important to note that this is a project in excess of €100m and therefore will require Government approval on the Preliminary Business Case and at two other "gates" prior to commencing construction in accordance with the Public Spending Code. The Government is the Approving Authority on a project in excess of €100m. In addition the project may be subject to an independent review and assurance mechanism as indicated in the Public Spending Code.

The proposed new ED and Women & Children's project was initiated in 2013 in line with the Department of Finance Guidelines for the Appraisal and Management of Capital Expenditure Proposals in the Public Sector. In 2019, the Public Spending Code was updated and the project must now comply with the requirements set out in the new Public Spending Code.

A Preliminary Business Case Report is now required under the new Public Spending Code (PSC) to advance the project. The Preliminary Business Case will also set out the previously completed deliverables in accordance with the old Public Spending Code, including the steps and decisions made that would now be made under the new PSC - Strategic Assessment Report, in advance of the Preliminary Business Case.

The draft Preliminary Business Case Report has been completed and issued for review by the HSE. Following this internal review and the approval of the HSE Board the final Preliminary Business Case

report will be issued to the Department of Health for technical review. This is expected to happen in Q1 2022.

The Department of Health will engage with the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in conducting this review. As detailed in the new Public Spending Code, the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform will then prepare a Business Case Review Report and issue to Government thereafter for consideration and a decision to proceed (approval in principle) with the next stage of the project or to cancel the project.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JC', is written over a horizontal line.

Jim Curran
National Director,
Capital & Estates