

29th March 2021

Tel: 066-7184516

Michael Moynihan , T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 14901/21

“To ask the Minister for Health the status of the establishment of a primary care centre in Millstreet, County Cork; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy Moynihan

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.

As outlined in a number of policy documents (most recently the Sláinte Care Implementation Strategy) it is Government policy to transfer activity currently taking place in the acute setting to a more appropriate setting in Primary Care. The development of a primary care centre infrastructure to support such a transfer of activity is essential. The HSE’s commitment to the development of Primary Care Centres across the country is outlined in its Capital Development Plan. These centres aim to be a one stop shop providing a range of primary care team services such as GP’s, Community Nursing, Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists, Speech Therapists, Dieticians, Counsellors and in some cases dental and mental health services. They are primarily developed as public private partnership builds or as long term operational leases. All applications to progress any of these arrangements require the approval of the HSE’s national property committee. The application process for such approval requires Cork Kerry Community Healthcare to identify the need for the development of such a facility in line with population health needs and the areas proximity to existing or planned primary care centres.

The stages involved in the development of a Primary Care Centre from inception to opening are as follows:

1. Expressions of interest sought
2. Applications assessed
3. Application to HSE Property Committee to approve
4. Letter of intent to proceed issued
5. Planning permission sought
6. Legal agreements finalised
7. Consultation with staff re layout
8. Build commences
9. Handover to HSE
10. Commissioning i.e. equipping, services, IT etc.
11. Phased opening

The development of all primary care centres is subject to GP commitment and completion of the build to HSE specification.

HSE Estates issued a notification inviting expressions of interest (stage 1) to build a Primary Care Centre in the Millstreet area. Submissions were received, assessed and suitable submissions have now been shortlisted and developers written to in this regard. HSE Estates is currently concluding on final information regarding its need in Millstreet and once concluded they will invite successful developers to submit detailed bids which will lead to one preferred bidder being identified to deliver the Millstreet Primary Care Centre.

If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Majella Daly".

Majella Daly
Interim Head of Service - Primary Care,
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare