



Oifig an Príomhoifigeach, Eagraíocht
Cúram Sláinte Pobail, Lár Tíre, An Lú,
An Mhí Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse
Sláinte, Oifig Cheantair, Bóthar
Ardáin, An Tulach Mhór, Co. Uíbh
Fhailí.

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4th May, 2021

Ms Sorca Clarke T.D.,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Re: Parliamentary Question – 15671/21

To ask the Minister for Health the status of plans to develop two new palliative units in the CHO8 region in terms of timescale, location, capacity and funding; and if he will make a statement on the matter - Sorca Clarke

Dear Deputy Clarke,

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. I have examined the matter and outline the position as follows.

Palliative Care services are developed in line with national policy, Sláintecare, the HSE's Palliative Care Development Framework, and the Palliative Model of Care. One of the cornerstones of the HSE's Development Framework is the establishment of regional hospices and the final phase of the current plan includes three new units of which two are in the Midlands and the Northeast.

Midlands Hospice

The 16-20 bed hospice planned to serve the population of the four Midland counties will be located in the grounds of the Midland Regional Hospital Tullamore. Offaly Hospice Foundation and Hooves for Hospice (through the Tullamore Lions Club) are close to raising €1.5 million towards the build. Discussions are on-going regarding the full capital requirement and when this has been agreed design / construction companies will be tendered for. In the meantime HSE Estates has agreed to provide funding from the capital budget to enable initial architectural plans to be drafted. It is not possible to indicate an opening date at this time. A revenue plan will be developed and funding will be sought through the estimates process in the appropriate year.

Northeast Hospice

The 30-36 bed hospice planned for the region will be located in Drogheda on a site adjacent to Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital Drogheda and will serve the population of the Northeast. Project Managers and Architects have been retained by a philanthropic donor and work is on-going on the initial drawings. Planning is to be applied for in Q3 2021 with estimated opening in Q4 2023. A revenue plan is being developed and funding will be sought through the estimates process in 2022.

I trust the above is in order but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Des O'Flynn', written in a cursive style.

Des O'Flynn
Chief Officer
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation