



National Lead for Palliative Care

Strategy and Planning
Mount Carmel Community Hospital,
Braemor Park, Churchtown, Dublin D14 A5R2
Tel: 01 6352270 Email: sheilagh.reaper-reynolds@hse.ie

Ceannasaí Náisúnta um Chúram Mhaolaitheach

Straitéis agus Pleanáil
Oispidéal Pobail Chonocán Chairmeil
Páirc Braemor, Baile an Teampaill, Baile Átha Cliath, D14 A5R2
Tel: 01 6352270 Email: sheilagh.reaper-reynolds@hse.ie

Sorca Clarke TD
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

16th April 2021

PQ 17270/21: To ask the Minister for Health the amount spent to date on the proposed palliative care units in the Midlands Regional Hospital, Tullamore and Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda.

PQ 17272/21: To ask the Minister for Health if the work involved in the introduction of the new palliative care units in the Midlands Regional Hospital, Tullamore and Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda has gone out to tender; and if all the relevant specialists have been appointed such as builders, architects and engineers.

Dear Deputy,

The Minister has requested the HSE to respond directly to you and as these matters are directly related a composite response is being provided 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.

HSE palliative care strategy includes the development of a national network of specialist palliative care inpatient units (IPUs/Hospices) with a view to ensuring individuals and families have access to hospice care within their region.

An effective funding partnership model has existed/exists for each new hospice – the capital for the unit is provided through local fundraising, the HSE usually provides fit-out costs, and the operational revenue is sourced through the estimates process.

With the opening of units in Wicklow, Mayo and Waterford in 2020/21, just three IPUs remain to be developed in the medium term i.e. Cavan Monaghan, the Northeast and the Midlands.

Northeast: 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. 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. To date no State/HSE revenue has been expended.

Midlands: 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. HSE Estates has agreed to provide funding from the capital budget to enable initial architectural plans to be drafted. Offaly Hospice Foundation and Hooves for Hospice (through the Tullamore Lions Club) are working to provide approximately €1.5 million between them towards the build.

I trust this answers your question but please do not hesitate to contact me should you require anything further.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sheilagh Reaper-Reynolds". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sheilagh Reaper-Reynolds
Strategy and Planning Lead for Palliative Care