



Oifig Cheannasaí na Caipíteal agus nEastát
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Mr. Thomas Gould, TD,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

27th October 2021

PQ 49140/21* To ask the Minister for Health the status of the planned children's hospital for Cork; and the timeline for same. -Thomas Gould

Dear Deputy Gould,

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.

Phase 1 of the new Paediatric Department in Cork has been delivered and commissioned providing dedicated paediatric outpatient accommodation, including dedicated paediatric cystic fibrosis outpatient accommodation in Cork University Hospital.

Over the course of Phase 1 works, the design for Phase 2 was developed. Phase 2 will focus on Paediatric in-patient accommodation ensuring children are provided with much needed appropriate, compliant accommodation. This phase of the project will deliver 74 replacement beds (50 children and 24 infant beds), 4 High Dependency Unit beds and all associated accommodation. This single-bed, en-suite accommodation will cater for both Mercy University Hospital & Cork University Hospital paediatric departments. Phase 2 project plans have been completed and a capital submission subsequently made and approved.

During the intervening period, the clinical requirement for dedicated paediatric Theatre accommodation was identified resulting in a "Phase 3" project plan being subsequently developed. This element of the project will deliver 3 new dedicated Paediatric Operating Theatres, 1 dedicated Paediatric Procedure Room and all associated accommodation.

Owing to site constraints such as adjacent buildings and necessary Helicopter flight paths to support CUH Major Trauma, Phase 3 can only be developed with Phase 2 (as Phase 3 involves underground accommodation). The total project cost to complete Phases 2 and 3 simultaneously and enable the delivery of the completed Paediatric Dept in Cork is currently estimated at €75M - €85M.

Given the significant level of funding required to deliver these remaining phases, a Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA) was required for the project to confirm the proposed approach is the most appropriate. The necessary CBA has been completed by independent Health Economists, EY-DKM. The results of EY-DKM CBA confirm the delivery of Phases 2 and 3 simultaneously as proposed is the best option. As required by Public Spending Code (PSC) the Preliminary Business Case for the project is currently being finalised by EY-DKM and is expected to be completed shortly for subsequent presentation and approval. Given the cost of this project and in-line with PSC, both Department of Health and DPER approval will be required for the project to advance.

Subject to the above approval, statutory applications such as planning, fire cert and disability access cert will be submitted in Q1 2022.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JC' or similar, written over a horizontal line.

Jim Curran
National Director
Capital & Estates