



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

3rd November 2021

PQ 50803/21 * To ask the Minister for Health the engagement he has had with Saolta with regard to the vision and a masterplan for the Merlin Park University Hospital site, including clarification on the building projects completed there in the past five years; the building projects currently under construction; the building projects for which planning permission has been given but which have not yet commenced and further planned projects; 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.

In respect of the hospital the current plans for buildings on the Merlin Park hospital are the replacement Orthopaedic theatres which were due to be completed in February/March 2022.

In addition there is a planned development of a two storey OPD block and an adult Cystic Fibrosis Out Patient Department (CF OPD) facility. This project will facilitate relocating some existing general medial & surgical OPD clinics from UHG to MPUH area opposite Unit 8. This will assist in meeting service demands and reducing risks. It will assist in facilitating the Emergency Department, Women's & Children's project. The planning permission notice for the Outpatients facility in MPUH was issued in Quarter 3, 2021.

Planning for the proposed new Outpatients Department (OPD) and Adult Cystic Fibrosis OPD was submitted to Galway City Council at the end of August 2021. A decision from Galway City Council is due in the near future. The development includes a two-storey OPD and an adjacent separate single storey Adult Cystic Fibrosis OPD (i.e. 2 separate buildings), 88 parking spaces, bicycle parking, pedestrian footpaths, lighting and associated signage and landscaping.

Subject to a successful grant of Planning from Galway City Council at the end of October, the OPD and Adult Cystic Fibrosis OPD project will be tendered through the Public Procurement process to appoint the main building contractor, and progressing the construction phase in 2022 and having the new facilities ready for early 2023.

Planning Permission (Local Authority Ref. 20-33) was granted in April 2021 for the construction of a new 60 bed CNU on the grounds of Merlin Park University Hospital. The two-storey CNU building of c. 5100 sq.m. (gross floor area) will contain 60 HIQA compliant single bedrooms with ensuite, divided into two 25-bed households and a 10-bed dedicated dementia unit and will replace existing long stay beds currently located in Units 5 & 6 on the campus.

All required Fire Safety and Disabled Access Certificates have also been granted and the CNU project has been approved to proceed to detail design stage. Subject to funding, the project could go to tender in Q2 2022 and construction work could commence in Quarter 3 2022. The building will have a 20 month construction period.

Enabling works including the construction of replacement workshops and stores and the relocation of gas and electric services are required prior to commencement construction of the CNU building, and these works will commence in Q4 2021.

The construction of the Galway City Ambulance base is substantially complete with handover planned before end of November 2021. Equipping is at an advanced stage and occupation is expected in early December once all statutory approvals (BCAR) are secured.

The Options appraisal for the future long term acute hospital needs in Galway recommended that a new large hospital build was required in Merlin Park. In addition to this the government under Slaintecare conducted a regional scoping exercise for the development of an elective hospital site in Galway and an application was submitted offering a site in Merlin Park for such a facility.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J Curran', written over a horizontal line.

Jim Curran
National Director,
Capital & Estates