



Ms Catherine Connolly, TD
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

28th December 2022

PQ 62556/22 To ask the Minister for Health the status of the proposal to establish an ambulance base at a location (details supplied: Recess, Co. Galway); if a planning permission application has been made to date; the details of the engagement between HSE capital and estates and Galway County Council with regard to the project; 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 December 2021 the National Ambulance Service (NAS), determined that an ambulance base was a requirement in Recess, Connemara. It was proposed to progress a project to refurbish an existing HSE owned building at this location. A capital submission was made to the HSE National Capital and Property Steering Group in Q1, 2022, with approval to progress received in Q2, 2022.

Upon initiation of the project in February this year by Capital and Estates, particular priority has been given to the preparation of the planning application given the sensitive location in Connemara and its status as an area of special conservation. Following the initial contact with Galway County Council, further re-engagement took place at the site in August 2022, which provided additional information to enable development of the planning application. A pre-planning meeting with Galway County Council was held in mid-October 2022, at which the proposals and approach to compliance by the HSE were deemed acceptable.

Subject to the normal project approval processes it is intended to lodge an application for planning permission for the ambulance base at Recess, Connemara in Q1, 2023.

Yours sincerely,

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Paul de Freine
National Director
Capital and Estates

