

**Ceannasaí Náisiúnta um Chúram Mhaolaitheach**

Oibríochtaí Comhtháite - Pleanáil  
Oispidéal Pobail Chonocán Chairmeil  
Páirc Braemor, Baile an Teampaill,  
Baile Átha Cliath, D14 A5R2

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**Niamh Smyth TD**  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

11<sup>th</sup> March 2022

**PQ No.: 6903/22 To ask the Minister for Health if the funding allocated to a hospice (details supplied) will cover the full planning and development costs; the length of time it will take to complete this phase; the next steps in this process; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Smyth,

The Minister has requested the HSE to respond directly on these matters and I apologise for the delay in issuing the response to you as follows:

The development of a new Specialist Palliative Care Inpatient Unit (IPU/Hospice) to serve the population of Cavan and Monaghan is recommended in national policy, Slaintecare and HSE palliative care development frameworks.

The HSE has been working in close partnership with St Christopher's Hospice to progress the development of the IPU. The Deputy may be aware that a building already exists on the identified site, which is located close to Cavan Hospital on the outskirts of Cavan town. The outcome of a feasibility study undertaken by the HSE indicates that the site is acceptable and the unit is suitable for redevelopment in order to bring it up to the high standards expected for hospice accommodation.

In order to progress the project the Minister for Health allocated €1 million for the drafting of full architectural plans, the planning process and initial ground works as appropriate. It is estimated that the full redevelopment of the unit will cost in the region of €5 million. St Christopher's Hospice has already raised a significant amount of this and they have committed to continue to do so. Once the unit has been completed the building will be handed over to the HSE on a long term lease arrangement. The HSE will provide the revenue required, and manage and deliver the service.

It is intended to have a full set of drawings and submission of the planning application completed in 2022. A construction company will be identified and once planning permission has been granted work on the building will commence – this phase is expected to be completed by the end of 2023 or early into 2024.

I trust this is in order and answers your query.

Regards,

**Sheilagh Reaper-Reynolds**  
National Lead for Palliative Care