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Mr Noel Grealish, TD
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

15th March 2022

PQ 10864/22 * To ask the Minister for Health when the construction of two new orthopaedic operating theatres at Merlin Park Hospital, Galway will be completed; when they will be brought into use; the details and cost of the project; the number of additional procedures that will be undertaken once they are operational; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Noel Grealish

Dear Deputy Grealish,

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.

Capital Funding (€10.57m) has been provided for the provision of two new operating theatre suites and ancillary accommodation (Scrub room/ Anaesthetic Rooms/ disposal room/ recovery bay/ staff changing rooms/ office/ kitchenette/ Interview room etc) in Merlin Park University Hospital. The development is an upgrade and consolidation of the existing Theatre service on the site. A new link corridor will link the existing hospital block to the new development. The Theatres will be primarily used for Orthopaedic elective surgery in Merlin Park University Hospital and will comprise of two number Orthopaedic Theatre suites including all associated rooms.

Construction work on the development commenced in March 2021, and works are expected to be completed by the end of March 2022. The new Theatres are expected to be equipped and become operational in April/May 2022.

It is anticipated that a minimum of 3,000 orthopaedic procedures will be carried out in the new theatre suite initially and, depending on staffing, it is hoped this figure will increase to over 4,000 orthopaedic procedures per annum.

Yours sincerely,

Paul de Freine
Interim National Director,
Capital & Estates