



**Oifig an Stiúrthóir Náisiúnta Caipiteal agus Eastáit**  
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Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

1<sup>st</sup> June 2022

**PQ 25146/22\* To ask the Minister for Health the estimated full-year cost to upgrade the building and facilities of maternity hospitals and units as needed and to ensure single room occupancy for every woman having a baby. -Niamh Smyth**

Dear Deputy Smyth,

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.

The process of developing an 'order of magnitude' capital cost, as requested under this Parliamentary Question, is dependent on having an understanding of a number of important factors all of which will influence the potential range of costs.

Consideration as to the extent of enabling and/or decant works which may be required, site specific statutory obligations, the provision of new or replacement beds, the extent of infection prevention and control measures, and the scope of ancillary upgrade and refurbishment works necessary are all critical factors in being able to determine an appropriate order of magnitude cost. Developing such an understanding of the necessary scope which is 'site by site' specific would require significant survey and investigative work to be completed along with at least a preliminary design to capture the spatial impact of the proposal.

In the context of the above, it is very difficult to provide an accurate estimate of cost as a direct response to your question. However, for high level budgetary purposes only, a range in the order of €300,000 to €600,000 per bed may be considered reasonable.

This indicative range of costs is subject to change given the unique characteristics of each existing maternity hospital location as well as the impact of the site specific considerations set out above.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul de Freine", written in a cursive style.

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**Paul de Freine**  
**National Director,**  
**Capital & Estates**