



**Oifig an Stiúrthóir Náisiúnta Caipiteal agus Eastáit**  
Ospidéal Sir Patrick Dun, Sráid na Canálach Móire  
Íocht.  
Baile Átha Cliath 2 D02 P667  
T: 01-6424747

**Office of the National Director Capital & Estates**  
Sir Patrick Dun's, Lower Grand Canal Street, Dublin 2

Ms Roisin Shortall, TD,  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

5<sup>th</sup> October 2022

**PQ 46372/22\* To ask the Minister for Health if he will outline the decision-making process for the selection of areas for State-funded primary care centres; if there is still a priority list; the prioritisation system for approving private sector centres; if he will provide details of the publicly-funded centres which have been built or approved over each of the past five years; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Róisín Shortall**

Dear Deputy Shortall,

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.

A national prioritisation exercise to review primary care centre locations was undertaken in 2012 by the Primary Care Division of the HSE, in conjunction with Capital and Estates. Primary care centres were prioritised on the basis of: service need; availability of appropriate existing facilities; and the level of deprivation in each area. Further consideration in the years subsequent to this review, has resulted in some locations not being progressed as a priority. This is primarily where it has been appropriate to merge locations, or where it is deemed that an existing healthcare facility can provide the required services.

As part of the aforementioned review and prioritisation exercise, the most suitable delivery model for developing each primary care centre was also identified. The delivery models are HSE capital funded developments, public private partnerships and operating lease arrangements. In addition to the locations ranked as a result of the prioritisation exercise, the mechanism and timescale for delivery of primary care infrastructure is dependent on a number of factors including; available capital funding, private equity financing and general practitioner (GP) participation. The commitment of GP's to sharing accommodation with HSE staff and delivering healthcare services from such facilities is essential for optimum primary care service delivery. Locations, including those to be delivered by the operational lease mechanism, cannot proceed unless GP's are prepared to engage in the process.

Irrespective of the mechanism for delivery, all potential primary care centres are also subject to suitable locations being offered, provided or available, HSE Board approval in line with the requirements of the Capital Projects Manual and Approvals Protocol, successful planning, procurement and property transaction processes. The delivery of primary care infrastructure is a dynamic exercise which is constantly evolving to take account of changing circumstances, including the feasibility of implementation.

Please see attached list of primary care centres which have been delivered in the past five years as requested.

Yours sincerely,

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

---

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