



Fódlannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive



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Date: 28th April 2023

PQ – 16056-23

Deputy Michael Healy-Rae
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

To ask the Minister for Health the progress being made to upgrade and enhance paediatric care and services in CUH: and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Healy-Rae

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. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Phase 1 of the CUH Paediatric Capital Project was completed in 2016 which included a 12 bed day ward, an 11 room outpatient facility and dedicated CF and diabetes treatment rooms.

Phase 2 of the paediatric capital project includes 82 bed in-patient beds, four paediatric operating theatres, 6 bed paediatric assessment unit, an area for health and social care professionals to see children and space is also available for MRI and other radiology equipment. Six high dependency beds, facilities for children with disabilities, end of life care rooms and 4 haematology/oncology beds are incorporated.

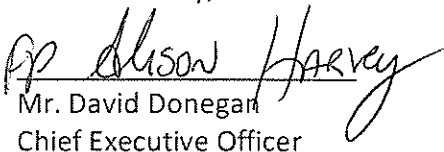
Enabling ground works for phase 2 have recently commenced with expected completion Q1 2024. As part of the public spending code which was not in place when the Phase 2 project group commenced almost 10 years, an updated business case is now required in addition to previous business case already submitted. Cost benefit analysis is previously approved. Strategic assessment review is awaiting national sign off. Our understanding is that the updated business case will take 3-6 months to complete and will then require national approval before any funding is allocated to allow progression to the construction phase. Construction phase will take 3-3.5yrs when it does begin.

At this point in time there is no capital allocation to allow progression into the construction phase. This project has already had multiple delays resulting in children being accommodated in temporary in patient space at CUH much longer than initially predicted.

CUH is designated as a regional paediatric centre in the national model of care. We aspire to deliver the best standard of care to the children of Cork and surrounding counties but we struggle to do so in the absence of appropriate facilities. The vast majority of children from this region will never have to attend the National Paediatric Hospital but they are no less deserving of facilities to the same standard. We would appreciate Government support to expedite this project which should have been completed long before now.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Donegan', written over a horizontal line. The signature is cursive and extends to the right of the line.

Mr. David Donegan
Chief Executive Officer