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25 April 2023

**Deputy Catherine Connolly,
Dáil Éireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2**

PQ 17291/23: To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 832 of 14 February 2023, for an update on the development of the new elective hospital in Merlin Park; the status to date of the development by the HSE of the detailed project brief, procurement strategy and pre-tender business case; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Connolly,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question which you submitted to the Minister for response.

Further to your parliamentary question of 14th February 2023; the HSE has set up a Programme Office and commenced working on the clinical and operational model for Elective Hospitals at Cork and Galway. Tenders for design teams are being prepared as are arrangements for site investigations. This work will inform the development of detailed project briefs and the other documents required under the Public Spending Code approvals process. The HSE is working towards end Quarter 3 2023 for the completion of these documents following which they will be submitted to the Department of Health for consideration and approval. Once approved, the HSE will then proceed to the next phase of the programme that will include making applications for planning.

As previously advised, the HSE is working towards 2028 for the completion of the programme including designing, planning, building and operationalisation of Elective Hospitals at Cork and Galway.

I trust the above information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

**Helen Shortt
Acting National Director, Change and Innovation**