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27<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Deputy Catherine Connolly,  
Dáil Éireann  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**PQ 7283/23: To ask the Minister for Health further to PQ No 73 of 8 December 2022, the status of the development of the new elective hospital in Merlin Park; the timeline for the delivery of the new elective hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter**

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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.

On 7 December 2022, the Minister for Health announced Government approval for the Enhanced Provision of Elective Care Programme and the preferred locations for the development of new Elective Hospitals in Cork and Galway. In Galway, the preferred site is at Merlin Park University Hospital.

This approval allows the elective hospitals project on the two sites to move to Decision Gate 2 of the Public Spending Code that requires the HSE to develop a detailed project brief, procurement strategy and pre-tender business cases for submission to the Department of Health as part of the PSC approvals process. As there is considerable service design and planning associated with the development of these documents, the indicative timelines for the completion of same by the HSE is last quarter 2023. Detailed planning of the Programme for Elective Hospitals including achieving statutory planning approvals, completion of procurement and building timelines is underway and this will give better definition as dates for completion of the buildings. At present, the HSE is working towards 2028 as an indicative timeline for operational commissioning of these two hospitals.

I trust the above information is of assistance to you.

**Yvonne Goff**  
National Director,  
Change & Innovation