



**Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta, Claochlú  
agus Nuálaíocht**

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Ospidéal an Dr Steevens,  
Baile Átha Cliath 8, D08 W2A8

**National Director  
Change & Innovation**

HSE, Dr Steevens Hospital,  
Dublin 8, D08 W2A8

**[www.hse.ie](http://www.hse.ie)  
[@hselive](https://twitter.com/hselive)**

**T: 01 6352232**

**E: [acute.strategy@hse.ie](mailto:acute.strategy@hse.ie)**

9<sup>th</sup> August 2023

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

***PQ 36874/23: To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 36 of 1 June 2023, for an update on the development of the new elective hospital in Merlin Park; the status of the development of the project brief, procurement strategy and detailed business case; if the HSE is on track to complete these documents by October 2023; if discussions with local planning authorities have commenced to-date; 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.

The Elective Hospitals Programme has made good progress in the first six months of 2023 following the Department's conclusion of the Gate 1 Business Case process at the end of 2022. This progress includes taking forward a range of workstreams to develop further the shape and scale of the hospitals and how they will operate (including a range of specialties, procedures, model of care, support services, etc.) with appropriate involvement of local/regional and national colleagues; and procuring support to progress the various site survey works on both sites.

The HSE is progressing to Gate 2, Public Spending Code approvals, which requires the development of detailed project briefs, a procurement strategy and detailed business cases for the new Elective Hospitals. There is considerable service design and planning associated with the development of these documents and work is ongoing in this regard. Once complete, these will be submitted to the Department of Health for consideration prior to approval to proceed to tender.

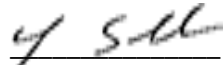
In this context, the HSE is progressing the procurement of a design team to take forward the hospital design to pre-tender stage readiness; progressing site assessments to inform the planning process and discussions; and finalising a procurement strategy in relation to the approach to building, operating, and maintaining the Elective Hospitals. The programme of work is also being refined for the remainder of 2023 including milestones to be achieved in respect of these.

The HSE remains committed to the timelines as set out in the Enhanced Provision of Elective Care Programme Preliminary Business Case, prepared by the Department of Health. Finalising the procurement strategy and detailed planning will provide a better indication of the construction

timelines for these significant projects. However, at present, the timelines are for the Elective Hospitals to receive their first patients in 2027 and be fully operational in 2028.

I trust the above information is of assistance to you. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any additional information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yvonne Goff', written over a horizontal line.

**Yvonne Goff**

**National Director, Change & Innovation**