



Mr Brian Leddin, TD  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

14th June 2023

**PQ 26750/23\* To ask the Minister for Health his plans to review the planning policy and guidelines regarding the establishment of new hospitals and new healthcare centres to ensure they are aligned with the Climate Action Plan, the National Planning Framework's compact-growth objective and the Government's Town Centres First policy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Brian Leddin**

Dear Deputy Leddin,

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.

The HSE considers and complies with Government policies and guidelines, as well as those set out by local authorities under the Planning and Development Acts, in the development of new hospital and health centres. These include the National Planning Framework's compact-growth objective and the Government's Town Centres First policy. Where challenges arise in this regard they are addressed on a case by case basis.

With regard to the Climate Action Plan, an Energy Efficient Design (EED) process, which is aligned with Irish Standard 399, is undertaken in relation to works and projects contained in the HSE's Capital Plan. The Energy Efficient Design (EED) process is fundamentally a structured process to ensure that both energy and carbon performance are fully considered in all design decisions and are implemented and modelled by all members of the Design Team at the earliest points in the design process.



The HSE's Design Team Technical Requirements and Scope of Service require Design Teams to clearly demonstrate a 'Route to Carbon Zero' in the design of each building as part of the EED process, to ensure that all HSE buildings are designed to be carbon zero ready. The application of this approach and the other measures that the HSE are implementing to achieve the energy and buildings related Climate Action Plan targets are set out in the HSE Infrastructure Decarbonisation Roadmap.

Yours sincerely,



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