



Oifig an Stiúirthóra, Claochlú agus Nuálaíocht

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
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7th November 2023

**Deputy Thomas Gould,
Dáil Éireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2**

PQ 46143/23: To ask the Minister for Health for an update on the elective hospital in Cork

Dear Deputy Gould,

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.

In December 2022 and following Gate 1 approval, the Government approved the next stage of the Enhanced Provision of Elective Care Programme and progression of the development of new Elective Hospitals in Cork and Galway. The preferred sites recommended to be brought forward in Cork is St Stephen's Hospital. The planning phase requires the HSE to develop detailed project briefs, a procurement strategy and pre-tender business cases for the hospital in Cork that will then be submitted for consideration by the Department of Public Expenditure and Procurement (Decision Gate 2, Public Spending Code) prior to approval to proceed to tender. This process is currently underway.

The HSE is progressing the procurement of a Design Team which will encompass an Architect led Design Team and Project Control Team, for appointment in early 2024. This process represents the most appropriate construct of a professional design services team required for this major capital build Programme.

Given the scale of the project, a process auditor has been appointed to provide an independent assurance role on behalf of the HSE CEO/Board. This role will assure that all processes are pursued and achieved in the maximum best time possible.

The timelines will be continuously refined as the projects develop/evolve, but the overall timelines for the Elective Hospitals remain the same as per Government approval in December 2022, with the 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

Yvonne Goff

Director, Change & Innovation