



**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
[@hselive](https://twitter.com/hselive)**

T: 01 6352232

E: acute.strategy@hse.ie

25th September 2023

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

PQ 39212/23: To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question Nos. 26047/23 of 1 June 2023, and 36874/23 of 25 July 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.

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.

As per my response to you of the 9th August 2023, 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 the range of specialties, procedures, model of care, support services, etc.) with appropriate involvement of local/regional and national colleagues; together with relevant site survey works on both sites.

In terms of Cork and Galway, 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.

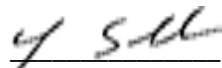
Given the scale of the project, a process auditor has been appointed to provide an independent assurance role on behalf of the HSE CEO/Board and is due to commence in the coming weeks. This role will assure that all processes are pursued and achieved in the maximum best time possible.

The immediate key deliverables aligned to the Gate 2 of the Public Spending Code to be progressed relate to the development of pre-tender business cases including the Draft Project Brief and Draft Procurement Strategy.

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

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

Yvonne Goff

National Director, Change & Innovation