



Deputy David Cullinane
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

2nd August 2024

PQ 30592/24 - To ask the Minister for Health the cost and development timeframes of each acute bed block development identified as 'delivered 2021-March 2024' in appendix 1 of the acute hospital inpatient bed capacity expansion plan 2024-2031, across each location, in tabular form; the number and type of beds in each development; the all-in average unit cost by bed type; and the average timeframe for delivery. -David Cullinane

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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 for response.

The bed expansion plan includes a total of n = 3438 additional acute beds and n= 929 replacement acute beds proposed to be delivered during the remainder of 2024 up to 2031 as set out in the below table:

Health Region	Total Additional Acute Beds	Total Replacement Acute Beds	Total new & replacement acute beds
HSE Dublin & Midlands	604	352	956
HSE Dublin & North East	665	113	778
HSE Dublin & South East	706	148	854
HSE Midwest	382	60	442
HSE South West	580	97	677
HSE West & North West	501	159	660
TOTAL	3438*	929	4367

*3438 Acute Inpatient Beds which includes a total of 106 Critical Care Beds.

It should be noted that a large number of factors have a bearing on the cost and development timeframes of an acute bed development. These include such considerations as to whether the project is entirely new construction or includes some element of refurbishment; the extent of enabling, decant and site preparation works; extent of IPC measures; scope of development and economies of scale; site specific considerations including planning conditions; and the scope of related ancillary upgrade of refurbishment works necessary to the successful operation of the beds provided.



In the context of the above, current external factors such as inflation rates, supply chain issues & availability of resources can influence the capital costs of projects. For high level budgetary purposes only, a capital cost range of €0.75m to €1.3m per acute bed could be considered a reasonable current capital cost with cost base dates as indicated. It should be noted that this high level budgetary cost range per bed relates to the in-patient / ward accommodation, and does not account for key clinical departments such as radiology, operating departments, neurology etc; which are project specific and sit outside of this cost range.

With regards to the average timeframe for delivery for a new acute hospital bed, HSE Capital and Estates advise that this can average from 48 to 57 months. Note this is outlined for the delivery of an acute bed in a new construction build as per HSE Critical Care Bed Capacity Report in 2020. The indicative timeline for development of the new build is outlined below:

- Prepare a Strategic Assessment Report – 9 months (includes Design Team procurement)
- Develop a Preliminary Business Case – 3 months
- Complete a Detailed Project Brief and Procurement Strategy as part of the Final Business Case Stage – 12 months (includes statutory approvals and detail design)
- Prepare tender documents and conduct the required public procurement process - 6 months
- Update the Final Business Case to take into account information from the tender process – 3 months
- Award the appropriate contract, actively implement the project, and regularly report to the Approving Authority – 15 to 24 months.

The above indicative timeline (48 to 57 months) assumes prompt approvals at each decision gate, smooth journey through the planning, statutory, procurement and implementation processes.

I trust this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jacqueline McNulty'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jacqueline McNulty

General Manager Access & Integration