



16th May 2024

Deputy Alan Kelly,
Dáil Éireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ: 19801/24 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of surgical hubs that have been established; the cost; the staffing requirements; and the capacity of surgical hubs that have already been established.

Dear Deputy Kelly,

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 Surgical Hubs projects are part of a broader elective capacity programme which aims to sustainably improve access to elective care. These Hubs are an initiative to address public patient waiting lists in the shorter term, complementary to the elective care centre programme with a narrower scope of procedures and to initiate necessary reforms to achieve the principles of separation of scheduled and unscheduled care. There are currently six Surgical Hubs planned in Cork, Limerick, Galway, Waterford and two in Dublin. A seventh Surgical Hub in the North West is currently awaiting approval from the DoH.

At full capacity and in a full year, each surgical hub is expected to deliver the following activity:

- Day Case: 4,080 procedures
- Minor Ops: 5,760 procedures
- Outpatients: 18,468 appointments

These hubs will, where possible, use rapid build construction to allow them to be delivered as quickly as possible. However, the delivery and timeframes for the Hubs are dependent on planning permissions being received, timelines for the Design & Built contracts to be confirmed and the recruitment of staff for these hubs to become operational.

The Surgical Hub in Dublin South (Mount Carmel) is on track to become operational in 2024 with Phase 1 (minor operations and outpatients) expected to commence in September 2024 and Phase 2 (day case theatres) in October 2024. The Dublin North Surgical Hub is on track for Phase 1 to

become operational in November 2024, with Phase 2 to follow in Q2 2025. The remaining Hubs in Cork, Galway, Limerick and Waterford are due to become operational towards the end of 2025.

In terms of staffing, a blended workforce model including dedicated staff and visiting consultants is being utilised for the surgical hubs, based on international evidence, the experience of the Reeves Day Surgery Centre at Tallaght University Hospital and guidance from the National Clinical Programme for Surgery. A standardised WTE staffing model has been agreed and includes Consultants, Junior Doctors, Nursing & HCAs, Administration, HSCPs and support staff. As part of NSP 2024, approval of 174.5 WTEs has been received from the DoH for the Dublin South and Dublin North Surgical Hubs due to open this year, and recruitment of these posts will commence very shortly.


In terms of the two Surgical Hubs due to become operational this year, the following outlines the indicative costs:

Hub	Once Off Costs				Recurring Costs
	Construction Costs	Other Project Costs*	Equipping & ICT Costs	Total Once Off Costs	WTE costs (indicative)
Dublin South	€16.45m	€5.6m	€5.4m	€27.45m	€11.5m
Dublin North	€25m	€12.4m	€5.4m	€42.8m	€10.8m

**Other project costs include fees for the Design Team, technical teams, regulatory approvals, surveys, and utilities.*

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



Helen Kelly
General Manager
Acute Operations