



14th February 2025

Mr. Seán Crowe TD  
Dail Eireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**PQ 4690/25 To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the status of Kelvin Grove, Carlow and the proposed children's therapy services unit to be situated there.**

Dear Deputy Crowe,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to the Minister for Children; Equality; Integration and Youth for response.

*I have reviewed the matter and the following is the current position.*

HSE Capital and Estates advise that the proposed plan for the development of the Kelvin Grove site includes a number of new facilities as follows:

- Relocation of Holy Angels Pre-School and Children's Disability Network Team
- New Ambulance Base including the refurbishment of existing Kelvin Grove House for the National Ambulance Service (NAS).

HSE Capital and Estates in conjunction with a number of other HSE services, are reviewing options within the current development control plan for the remainder of the Kelvin Grove site.

**Holy Angels Pre School and Children's Disability Network Team (CDNT)**

HSE Capital and Estates can confirm a design team was appointed in 2023 for the proposed Holy Angels Pre School and CDNT project. The design team prepared a cost report which indicated the funding required was significantly in excess of the allocated €7.1m.

To progress with the more-urgent Holy Angels Pre School, the HSE is currently reviewing options to prioritise this development on the Kelvin Grove site. The design team is liaising with the Service and preparing option appraisals. This should be completed by the end of Q1. Funding has been provided to progress the design of this facility. The final capital funding requirements will be determined upon completion of the design of the new facility.



The CDNT remains co-located in Bethany House and the recently refurbished Bluebell Centre at St. Dymphna's Hospital Campus. The HSE is reviewing options to make full use of the Bluebell Centre in St. Dymphna's Hospital for Children Therapy Services.

**National Ambulance Service**

HSE Capital and Estates, working with the National Ambulance Service, is in the process of engaging a design team for the development of a new Ambulance Base on site.

The process has been delayed due to the requirement for the establishment of Design Team Frameworks for the selection of design teams nationally. This project is the pilot project for the region and introduces a new Design Team framework for non-acute projects in the value band €1m - €15m. This is the first of six new frameworks being introduced, and is expected to be in place in Q1 2025. Following this, a competition will be ran to select a Design Team for the Ambulance Based in Kelvin Grove from this framework. It is anticipated that the design team should be appointed in Q2 2025.

A more definitive timeline for these two proposed projects on the Kelvin Grove campus will be available as the projects progress through the design and planning stages.

Yours sincerely,

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**Ciarán Ruane,**  
**Estates Manager**  
**HSE Capital and Estates Department**