



21st February 2025

Deputy John Lahart
Dáil Éireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ5939/25; To ask the Minister for Health for an update on the position of new elective hospitals, and specifically a new elective hospital for the Dublin region; and if she will make a statement on the matter

Dear Deputy Lahart,

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.

I am pleased to update you on progress and advise you that the HSE appointed the following teams at the end of 2024 to support the detailed design of the Elective Hospital in Cork and Galway;

1. Integrated Design Team (to provide architectural, design and engineering services)
2. Project Control Team (to support the HSE to manage, control and administer the design/construction programme)

The HSE is finalising the Preliminary Planning Brief for both locations and the Integrated Design team is now actively working with HSE to progress the detailed planning and design of both facilities.

This involves a detailed and comprehensive work plan in 2025 to inform the planning approach and work with HSE to finalise the design option. This comprehensive work will take time and will be underpinned by significant engagement with multiple stakeholders including Local Authorities.

When the detailed design is completed, a detailed business case will then be prepared in order to seek the necessary funding approvals to proceed to construction.

The work required to progress the two preferred sites in Dublin sites (at Connolly Hospital in Blanchardstown and at the current Children's Hospital site in Crumlin) to Approval Gate 1 of the Infrastructure Guidelines approvals process continues. A feasibility study of the Crumlin site is due for completion. Demand modelling is being undertaken to inform the scope and the scale of the capacity requirements for Dublin Elective Hospitals.



The HSE is also addressing waiting lists in the shorter term through the development of six new Surgical Hubs in each Health region across the country. The HSE Surgical Hub South Dublin opened on 18th February and the HSE Surgical Hub North Dublin will open at the end of this year, the remaining surgical hubs will open on a phased basis in 2026. They will consist of operating theatres, procedure rooms, recovery spaces, OPD spaces and support accommodation. The primary purpose of surgical hubs is to enhance day case surgery and ambulatory capacity in order to address waiting list pressures.

I trust the above information is of assistance to you.

Niamh Smyth
General Manager
Elective Care Programme