



Mr Thomas Gould, TD
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

17th July 2025

PQ 36925/25* To ask the Minister for Health for an update on the elective hospital.

Dear Deputy Gould,

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.

At the end of 2024, the HSE appointed an Integrated Design Team (IDT) to provide architectural, design and engineering services, and a Project Control Team to support the HSE to manage, control and administer the design/construction programme for the Cork and Galway Elective Hospitals.

The IDT are working at pace to progress the detailed design pertaining to Phase I ambulatory service provision for the Elective Hospitals in Cork and Galway to inform planning submissions and the range of statutory and regulatory approvals necessary to proceed to tender and construction. This involves a detailed and comprehensive workplan 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.

Surveys and site investigations are being conducted, which are informing the design and planning applications for enabling works that are expected to be submitted by the end of the year. The full planning permission for the Cork main works is expected to be submitted next year, this will determine when construction works can commence.

In line with the requirements of the Infrastructure Guidelines, once the detailed design is completed, a detailed business case will then be prepared in order to seek the necessary funding approvals to proceed to tender for construction works contractors.

In the shorter term, the HSE is developing new Surgical Hubs in each Health region across the country. The HSE Surgical Hub in Cork is due to open 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.

Yours sincerely

Brian O'Connell
National Director
Head of Strategic Health Infrastructure and Capital Delivery