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um Rochtain agus Imeascadh

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Deputy David Cullinane
Dáil Éireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

13th June 2025

PQ 32072/25: To ask the Minister for Health the number of elective only hospitals planned, the location for each, the most recent estimated cost of each, the stage each plan is at; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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.

In May 2024, the Minister for Health brought a memo to Government on the progress to develop four new Elective Hospitals nationally. In addition to those sites already identified in Galway (Merlin Park University Hospital) and Cork (St Stephen's Hospital, Sarsfield Court), this update outlined that sites have now been identified for two new facilities in Dublin – at Connolly Hospital, Blanchardstown and the current site of Children's Health Ireland at Crumlin.

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. In the initial phase this work will inform the development of the Elective Hospitals in Cork and Galway. However, that same work will inform the subsequent design and development of the Elective Hospitals in Dublin.

The IDT are working at pace to progress the detailed design 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. When the detailed design is completed, a detailed business case including associated costs will then be prepared in order to seek the necessary funding approvals to proceed to construction.

As part of the Preliminary Business Cases (PBC) for the Elective Hospitals in Cork and Galway, a demand model was developed to inform the capacity requirements necessary. Given the time since the development of these PBCs, the HSE is currently refreshing the demand model using the most up to date activity, census information, assessment of existing capacity and a refreshed scheduled care procedure list suitable for these elective care facilities. This demand model will underpin the scope, scale and indicative capital and revenue funding required to deliver the Dublin facilities. It will also inform the timelines necessary to develop the PBC for approval of the Dublin Elective Hospitals capacity requirements. Every effort will be made to expedite the submission of the PBC and in due course and subject to the necessary approvals, this will enable HSE to engage the Integrated Design Team to commence the next stage of the design process in Dublin.

In the shorter term, the HSE is addressing waiting lists through the development of the new Surgical Hubs in each Health region across the country. The HSE Surgical Hub South Dublin opened on 18th February and the construction of the HSE Surgical Hub North Dublin is due to be completed 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
Access and Integration