



Mr Peter Cleere, TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

12th March 2025

PQ 9868/25* To ask the Minister for Health for an update on the primary care centre in Graiguenamanagh; the other primary care service developments planned for Carlow and Kilkenny; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Peter 'Chap' Cleere

Dear Deputy Cleere,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Please see below updates on Primary Care Centres for Graiguenamanagh, and other primary care service development planned for Carlow and Kilkenny as requested.

Graiguenamanagh

It is intended that the Primary Care Centre in Graiguenamanagh will be delivered via the HSE operational lease mechanism. Following an advertisement process in 2019 where submissions were requested from private operators for the development of a Primary Care Centre in the area, a preferred solution was identified and, following approval by the Board of the HSE, a Letter of Intent was issued to the private operator in 2022.

It is anticipated an application for planning permission for the Primary Care Centre in Graiguenamanagh will be lodged by the developer in Q2 2025.

Following approval of the relevant statutory procedures (including planning permission, fire safety certificate, and disability access cert) the private operator will issue a construction programme which will outline target dates, including commencement of construction works on site.

Urlingford

The need for a new Primary Care Centre in Urlingford had been identified previously. A selection process had been undertaken in 2019, and a Preferred Provider had been selected. Unfortunately, the selected Preferred Provider encountered difficulties regarding the economic viability of the proposed project as a result, the HSE recently has had to collapse the process.

To facilitate a re-advertisement of this Primary Care Centre in Urlingford, a full review of the current and future service needs for the area is being undertaken with relevant stakeholders and a scope is being identified based on the updated service requirements.

The HSE will advertise Urlingford Primary Care Centre on the E-tenders Procurement Platform with a Prior Information Notice (PIN). The PIN will seek expressions of interest from interested parties, to enter into the two-step procurement process, in delivering a Primary Care Centre via the HSE's Operational Lease Model in 2025.

Tullow Primary Care Centre

It is intended that the Primary Care Centre for Tullow will be delivered via the HSE operational lease mechanism. Following an advertisement process in 2019 where submissions were requested from private operators for the development of a Primary Care Centre in the area, a preferred solution was identified and, following approval by the Board of the HSE, a Letter of Intent issued to the private operator in 2023.

It is anticipated an application for planning permission for the Primary Care Centre in Tullow will be lodged by the developer in Q2 2025.

Ballyhale Health Centre

The HSE have met with General Practitioners regarding the development of a health centre in Ballyhale, Co. Kilkenny.

A strategy was agreed at that meeting on how best to proceed with the next agreed step being the preparation of an Option Appraisal. This will in turn inform the required documentation and approval process to consider the merits of this proposal for Capital funding.

Freshford Health Centre

A Design Team are in the process of preparing and lodging an application for planning permission for a significant extension to the existing Freshford Health Centre. Work is expected to commence on this project in Q4 2025.

Yours sincerely

Micheál Conneely
Interim National Director
Capital & Estates