



Deputy John Connolly
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

12th March 2025

PQ 9898/25 To ask the Minister for Health if the HSE has procured the architectural led design team and project control team for the design and progression of the new elective hospital at Merlin Park, Galway; if she can provide an update on the progress of their work; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Connolly,

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 Integrated Design Team (IDT) are currently finalising the site option appraisal assessments at both St Stephens in Cork and Merlin Park in Galway. Once the preferred option is selected, the IDT will then progress with the development of their site layout and overall plan for the selected development plot.

The IDT are working at pace to progress the detailed design 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 will then be prepared in order to seek the necessary funding approvals to proceed to construction.

I trust the above information is of assistance to you.

Niamh Smyth
General Manager
Elective Care Programme