



Oifig an Stiúirthóra, Claochlú agus Nuálaíocht

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
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7th December 2023

**Deputy Catherine Connolly,
Dáil Éireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2**

PQ 48435/23: To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 1921 of 11 September 2023, if he will provide an update on the development of the new elective hospital in Merlin Park; the status of the development of the pre-tender business case, including the Draft Project Brief and Draft Procurement Strategy; the timeline for when he expects the project to complete Stage 2 of the Public Spending Code; and if he will make a statement on the matter.
-Catherine Connolly

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.

The Elective Hospitals Programme has been progressed in 2023 following the Department's conclusion of the Gate 1 Business Case process in December 2022. This includes work to further define the shape and scale of the hospitals and how they will operate and the initiation of procurement, ICT and workforce planning. To advance the Elective Hospital projects in Cork and Galway, the HSE is preparing to develop detailed project briefs, design proposals, related business cases and other material, for submission to DPER, in accordance with Decision Gate 2 "Pre-tender Approval" of the PSC, prior to approval to proceed to tender in due course.

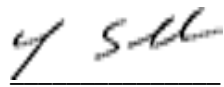
The HSE is progressing the procurement of a Design Team which will be appointed to provide the full scope of design services for the proposed Elective Hospitals in Cork and Galway, and the provision of services required to support the Department of Health with the preliminary business case for the Elective Hospital(s) in Dublin. The first stage of appointing the Design Team, which is a preliminary qualification stage, was recently published on the Governments E-tenders website. Market response to date has been positive with broad market interest in this competition. Responding to initial feedback, and to encourage optimal interest in participating in the Stage 2 Tender process, the closing date has been extended to January 2024. This extension will result in the appointment of the successful Architect Led Design Team in April/early May 2024. The

appointment of the complementary Project Control team will be coordinated around this timeframe.

Timelines will be refined as the projects develop and evolve, but the overall programme targets for the Elective Hospitals remain as previously advised, with the hospitals in Cork and Galway planned to receive their first patients in 2027 and to be fully commissioned from 2028 onwards.

I trust the above information is of assistance to you. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any additional information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yvonne Goff', written over a horizontal line.

Yvonne Goff

Director, Change & Innovation