



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta  
Géaroibríochtaí

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Deputy Matt Shanahan  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

29<sup>th</sup> February 2024

***PQ 43565/23 - To ask the Minister for Health the status of a HSE tender (details supplied); if he will give a guarantee that the Waterford surgical hub will be nominated first to be constructed and awarded the highest priority, given the high level of surgical activity at University Hospital, Waterford and in its subsidiary unit in Kilcrene, County Kilkenny; and if he will make a statement on the matter.***

- ***Matt Shanahan***

Dear Deputy Shanahan,

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.

The HSE is fast-tracking plans to introduce seven new surgical hubs nationally as an important component of broader scheduled care reform. The key goals of surgical hubs are to reduce waiting times and waiting lists for inpatient and day case care and support progress towards the 12-week Sláintecare access target. The surgical hub model is aligned to the Sláintecare vision and focuses on increasing separation between emergency and elective care to ensure all in scope procedures are delivered within the 12-week Sláintecare access target.

The first surgical hub to become operational in Ireland is the Reeves Centre at Tallaght University. This model has been hugely successful and since opening in December 2020 has led to a 17% reduction in the total Day Case Waiting List at Tallaght University Hospital and a 34% improvement in the achievement of the 12-week Sláintecare Access Target for day case procedures at Tallaght University Hospital. As of January 2024, approximately 75% of patients waiting for a day case procedure are waiting less than 12 weeks (compared to 47% nationally) and approximately 97% are waiting less than 9 months (compared to 80% nationally). This demonstrates full achievement of the NSP 2023 wait time target for Day Case procedures at Tallaght University Hospital. With the exception of a small number of highly specialised clinical procedures, the substantial majority of in scope procedures at the Reeves Centre are delivered within 12 weeks.

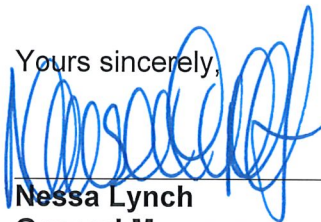
The seven new surgical hubs are being expedited through an ambitious programme timeline, which is subject to market capacity to deliver, and are to be located in:

- Dublin North
- Dublin South
- Cork
- Galway
- Limerick
- Waterford
- North West

Procurement is complete for the Dublin North and Dublin South Surgical Hubs and construction has commenced on site. Both sites are expected to become operational in a phased capacity in 2024. Procurement is in final stages for the Galway Surgical Hub and construction is due to commence in the coming weeks. This site is expected to become operational in 2025. Procurement of a construction contractor for the remaining sites is underway and delivery timelines for these sites are subject to market capacity.

I trust this is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



**Nessa Lynch**  
**General Manager**  
**Acute Operations**