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Date: 17th April 2024

PQ – 9699/24

Deputy Colm Burke
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

To ask the Minister for Health what progress has been made in the delivery of the new surgical hub for Cork University Hospital; the up to date position with regard to the new elective hospital in Cork; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Burke

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. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The delivery of seven surgical hubs nationally is a key Government priority and represents a significant step forward in delivering against the Multi Annual Approach to reducing waiting lists and waiting times. The intention to develop a Surgical Hub in Cork was announced by the Minister for Health in December 2022 as part of the National Surgical Hub Programme. The Cork Surgical Hub, under the peri-operative governance of Cork University Hospital (CUH), will increase surgical capacity and improve patient access to care in the South of Ireland.

The selected location for the Cork Surgical Hub is on the CUH campus. A standardised design was finalised in 2023 and a planning application for the hub was submitted to Cork City Council (CCC) on 8th December 2023. On 12th February 2024, CCC issued a Request for Information (RFI), requesting a CUH Masterplan, clarification on Urban Roads/Street Design, Landscaping and Architectural Design, Traffic and Mobility Information and further lighting assessments. A response to the RFI has since been submitted and a decision on planning is expected in May 2025.

Enabling works for the Cork Surgical Hub are underway and progressing in line with agreed timelines. The enabling works are expected to be complete in May 2024.

The Cork Surgical Hub, along with the Waterford and Limerick Surgical Hubs, are currently out for competitive tender for a Works Contractor to deliver the Design and Build programme. Tender responses are due in April 2024 and the successful contractor is expected to be appointed in May 2024. This timing is aligned to the completion of the enabling works on site, in order to support expedited delivery of the Cork Surgical Hub.

Construction of the Cork Surgical Hub is expected to begin in June 2024, following planning approval, appointment of a Works Contractor and completion of enabling works. Exact construction timeframes will depend on market capacity and will be confirmed following completion of procurement.

Operational planning is also underway and will run concurrently to construction of the hubs. A finalised workforce model has been agreed and a recruitment plan is in development to ensure the hubs are staffed and ready to commence patient care immediately upon completion and hand over of the purpose built facility.

As the new elective hospital is not under the governance of Cork University Hospital, it would be inappropriate to comment on this matter.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,


Mr. David Donegan
Chief Executive Officer