



**Oifig an Stiúrthóir Náisiúnta,
Caipeatal agus Eastáit**

Ospidéal Sir Patrick Dun,
Sráid na Canálach Móire Íochtarach.
Baile Átha Cliath 2, D02 P667

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Mr Marc Ó Cathasaigh, TD,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

7th August 2024

PQ 31860/24*To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the projected timeline for the hub for children and the hub for older people at St. Otteran's Hospital, including planning and construction phases; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Marc Ó Cathasaigh

Dear Deputy Ó Cathasaigh,

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 Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth.

The Sacred Heart Centre, situated in Waterford City, provides early intervention services for children up to 6 years of age for children with complex needs. The accommodation for the Sacred Heart Centre is not suitable for providing future services or for planned expansion of services.

It was agreed to co-locate and build purpose built premises on a single site in St. Otteran's Waterford to maximize efficiency.

A Design Team is in place for this project and Stage 1 Preliminary Design will be finalised in Q3 2024. This design will be reviewed before progressing to statutory approval and detail design stage, given the scale and expected cost of the proposed development.



An Enhanced Community Care Hub for older people is proposed for St. Otteran's Hospital, Waterford. Capital funding to progress this project has been secured. A scoping exercise is currently underway to ascertain the costs and programme associated with the refurbishment works required within the existing building at St. Otterans Hospital.

The timeframe for any form of occupation is approximately 4- 5 years, this is due to a number of factors such as:

- The statutory process needed such as Planning Permission, Fire Safety Certification and Disability Access Certification.
- The project will need to progress through the tender and design stages.
- The building requires significant refurbishment works in order to occupy the vacant areas.
- Enabling works package likely required for demolition & repair works.
- This particular building is a protected structure.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'pp Joe Hoare'. The 'pp' is written to the left of the name.

Brian O'Connell
Interim National Director
Capital & Estates