



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

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

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Mr. Mick Barry, TD
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
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Dublin 2

15th March 2024

PQ 10192/24*To ask the Minister for Health to outline the relationship between Connolly Hospital new laboratory and the RCSI; to report on what public funds were used for the development of this laboratory; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Mick Barry

PQ 10191/24*To ask the Minister for Health to supply information about the relationship between a public hospital, Connolly Hospital, and a private institution, the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, which has a building in construction (details supplied: on hospital land at Connolly; to outline what protections are in place to protect the state's interest regarding the land and access being handed over to the RCSI; to clarify whether it will be the HSE or the RCSI who will control activities in the new building; to clarify what body authorised the release state land to the RCSI); and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Mick Barry

Dear Deputy Barry,

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 response.

I propose to answer your two Parliamentary Questions in this response. A new Education Research Centre with a microbiology laboratory is currently under construction at Connolly Hospital. This new facility will provide (1) microbiology laboratory services for Connolly Hospital and (2) capacity for RCSI's translational research, which aims to enhance patient treatment, inform policy and improve the quality of education of healthcare professionals.



The new 4,100m² three-storey building is designed with two distinct interlocking blocks for academic, faculty and administration functions with a communal atrium area linking the two, providing amenity and support space for students and staff and the HSE microbiology laboratory.

On completion of the facility the HSE (Landlord) intend to enter into a lease agreement with the RCSI Academic (Tenant) for a period of 35 years. The lease agreement pertains to the ground and first floors with the HSE retaining title for the second floor which is where the Hospitals microbiology laboratory will be located.

The capital funding associated with the development of the second floor only for the hospital microbiology department is approved through the HSE Capital & Estates Procedure and Protocols. This partnership approach employed between RCSI and the HSE has resulted in a more economically effective delivery of much needed microbiology laboratory services for Connolly Hospital.

For the avoidance of doubt the capital cost associated with the development of the ground and first floor is fully funded by the RCSI College.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian O'Connell".

Brian O'Connell
Interim National Director
Capital & Estates