



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta
um Rochtain agus Imeascadh

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6th November 2024

Deputy Roisin Shortall
Dáil Éireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ 45271/24: To ask the Minister for Health to provide an update on the enhanced provision of elective care programme; the status of his plans for elective-only hospitals in Dublin, Cork and Galway following site selection; the timeline his Department is working towards for delivery of each; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -

Dear Deputy Shortall,

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.

Cork and Galway Elective Hospitals:

The HSE is in the final stage of awarding of contracts for the following two Teams for the Cork and Galway Elective Hospitals:

- Integrated Design Team (to provide architectural, design and engineering services)
- Project Control Team (to support the HSE to manage, control and administer the design/construction programme)

Work is nearing completion on the development of the Preliminary Design Brief which will be provided to the Integrated Design Team upon their appointment in the coming weeks. The Integrated Design Team will be tasked with developing the design in accordance with this brief.

Once appointed, the Integrated Design Team will undertake further analysis in terms of timelines for the hospitals in Galway and Cork to become operational. Timelines will be dependent on a number of factors including the agreement of standardised briefs for Cork and Galway Elective Hospitals, the procurement strategy adopted, completion of external reviews (including Major Project Advisory Group), approval by government to proceed to tender and finally construction timelines which will be dependent on availability of construction workers and materials.



Dublin Elective Hospitals:

The work required to progress the two emerging preferred sites in Dublin sites (at Connolly Hospital in Blanchardstown and at the current Children's Hospital site in Crumlin) to Approval Gate 1 of the Infrastructure Guidelines approvals process continues. A feasibility study of the Crumlin site is due for completion. Demand modelling has commenced to inform the scope and the scale of the capacity requirements for Dublin Elective Hospitals.

The HSE is also addressing waiting lists in the shorter term through the development of six Surgical Hubs in each Health region across the country. These will open on a phased basis between 2024 and 2026. They will consist of operating theatres, procedure rooms, recovery spaces, OPD spaces and support accommodation. The primary purpose of surgical hubs is to enhance day case surgery and ambulatory capacity in order to address waiting list pressures.

I trust the above information is of assistance to you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Niamh Smyth'.

Niamh Smyth
General Manager
Elective Care Programme