



**Oifig an Stiúrthóra Náisiúnta
um Rochtain agus Imeascadh**

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29th August 2024

**Deputy Catherine Connolly,
Dáil Éireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2**

PQ 35030/24: To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 2512 of 23 July 2024, for any update on the development of the new elective hospital in Merlin Park; the status of the appointment of the architect-led design team; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Connolly,

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.

Further to your parliamentary question of the 23rd July 2024; The HSE is in the final approval stages of procurement for a number of key teams, including:

1. Architect Lead Design Team (to provide architectural, design and engineering services)
2. Project Control Team (to support the HSE to manage, control and administer the design/construction programme)

At this time and subject to HSE approvals, the aim is to have the Architect Lead Design Team and Project Control Team in place by Q3, 2024.

The Elective Care Programme continues to take forward a range of workstreams that will support the completion of a detailed design brief which will be necessary to inform the Design Team upon their appointment and to prepare the deliverables required to meet Approval Gate 2 of the Infrastructure Guidelines.

As previously advised, timelines will be refined as the projects develop and evolve, and in particular, on appointment of the Architect Led Design Team further analysis will be undertaken in terms of timelines for the hospitals in Galway and Cork to become operational.

I trust the above information is of assistance to you.

**Niamh Smyth
General Manager
Elective Care Programme**