

**Opening Statement of Fred Barry, Chair-designate of the National Paediatric Hospital
Development Board.**

13th March 2019

Thank you, Chairman and Committee Members, for inviting me to speak to you today. I am here in my capacity as Chair-designate of the National Paediatric Hospital Development Board (Development Board).

The Development Board has the remit to design, build and equip a new national children's hospital on the campus shared with St. James's hospital, and the two Paediatric Outpatients and Urgent Care Centres on the Connolly and Tallaght University Hospital campuses.

Considerable progress has been made on this remit to date. The Connolly facility will open later this year, and construction of both the main hospital at St. James's and of the Tallaght facility has commenced. I would like to acknowledge the contribution and personal commitment of my predecessor, Mr Tom Costello, in chairing the Development Board to this point.

My background is, I believe, relevant to my proposed role. I am a Chartered Engineer, with additional qualifications in management, law, arbitration and mediation. I have worked internationally on the design and construction of many very large capital projects, and was Group Managing Director for the UK and Ireland with Jacobs, one of the world's biggest engineering companies. I worked in the public sector as Chief Executive of the National Roads Authority at a time when we built much of the motorway network. And, I have extensive board experience, in both the private and public sectors.

The new children's hospital is not just another big infrastructure project. It is much more than that. It will be transformational for the care we give our children and young people, who represent about a quarter of our population. I am honoured to be asked to play a role in its development and finally I look forward to working with the Board of Children's Health Ireland on this great national project.

I am happy to answer any questions the Committee may have, Chairman.