



06 December 2022

Sarah Cremin
Committee of Public Accounts
Leinster House
Dublin 2
D02 XR20

Ref:
S1043 PAC33
S1059 PAC33

Dear Sarah,

I refer to the Committee's request for my Department to provide additional information regarding the status of the business case for the National Maternity Hospital relocation. I am proposing to respond to both your correspondence which address the same topic (refs: S1043 PAC33 and S1059 PAC33).

As of the date of this letter, DPER has not received a finalised version of the relevant business case for the proposal from the Department of Health but we understand that the pre-tender stage Business Case (at Decision Gate 2) is at an advanced point.

Following the completion of the external assurance process, the proposed business case is required to be submitted to the Major Project Advisory Group (MPAG) for technical review. MPAG is an independently chaired group consisting of external experts in public project development and delivery. They will provide final views and recommendations to the Department of Health for their review, and to the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform in supporting observations on any future decision relating to the business case.

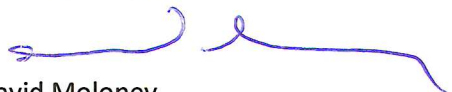
If approved by Government at this stage, the project will proceed to tendering and with finalising any required planning processes. Following this, the Department of Health will be required to come back to Government for Final Business Case approval which includes the market prices for the preferred bid, prior to contracts being agreed and signed.

The governance arrangements for the proposal including the establishment of a project board and general project management arrangements are a matter for the Department of Health and the project's Sponsoring Agency.

In relation to the specific queries 2 and 3 raised in your correspondence of 24 October 2022 (Ref: S1043 PAC33), this project has not been granted approval to proceed to go to tender or to agree final contracting with tenderers. The presentation of a detailed Business Case to Government for approval is required before the preferred project option can be tendered. Chapters 4 and 5 of the Public Spending Code¹ set out the requirements of the business case at this stage.

¹ Link to Public Spending Code: <https://assets.gov.ie/99068/c14c842b-2afc-41d6-8429-045548548ecc.pdf>

Yours sincerely,



David Moloney
Secretary General
Department of Public Expenditure and Reform