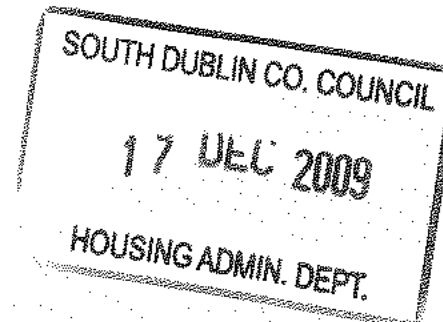




16 December 2009

Ms Allyson Rooney
Senior Staff Officer
Housing Administration
South Dublin County Council
County Hall
Tallaght
Dublin 24



Dear Ms. Rooney

I wish to thank you for your letter concerning the South Dublin County Council motion of opposition to the proposed closure of the National Children's Hospital Tallaght.

The way to provide the best possible paediatric tertiary care most effectively involves the creation of one single national paediatric hospital, alongside a major teaching hospital, bringing together all the medical and nursing expertise for complex conditions. The concept of bringing together all three present services is widely accepted.

The Children's Health First Report commissioned by the Health Service Executive indicated that the population and projected demands in this country can support only one world class tertiary paediatric hospital. It recommended that the hospital should be in Dublin and should, ideally, be located with a leading adult academic hospital in order to optimize the outcomes for children. Following detailed consideration, it was decided that the most appropriate location for the new National Paediatric Hospital is at the Mater Hospital.

Services at the National Children's Hospital Tallaght, Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin and Temple Street Children's University Hospital will transfer to the new National Paediatric Hospital. Pending completion of the project, the HSE will continue to finance the provision and development of services at each of the transferring hospitals.

The new hospital will be based at the Mater Hospital and will include an associated Ambulatory and Urgent Care Centre at Tallaght which is to open in advance of the new hospital. The plans for this proposed Ambulatory and Urgent Care Centre (AUCC) are being developed in conjunction with the proposed new paediatric hospital and it is proposed to have the AUCC at Tallaght completed in 2013. This Centre will offer a wide range of services including urgent care consultations, outpatient services and day surgery.

Cuirfear fáilte roimh chomhfhreagras i nGaeilge

Department of Health & Children
Hawkins House Dublin 2
Teach Haicín Baile Átha Cliath 2

Tel (01) 635 4148
Fax (01) 671 4508

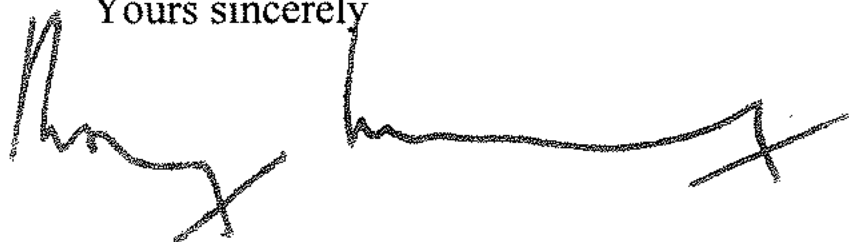
Email info@health.gov.ie
Web www.dohc.ie

The development of the National Paediatric Hospital is a priority project for the Government. The project is proceeding as planned and is being overseen by the National Paediatric Hospital Development Board which was established in May, 2007. The HSE is working closely with the Board in progressing the project, which is scheduled for completion and commissioning in 2014.

The real challenge in paediatrics is to maximise the efficient use of all our healthcare capacity both in Dublin and across the country. Crumlin, Temple Street and Tallaght paediatric services need to be increasingly working in a co-ordinated, shared and efficient fashion to prepare for the eventual coming together of the three institutions into one national paediatric hospital. The HSE is actively pursuing ways in which services across the three hospitals can best be co-ordinated, to avoid unnecessary duplication and to achieve savings that can be put back into patient care.

I trust that this clarifies the matter for you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary Harney', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mary Harney, T.D.
Minister for Health and Children