



9 May 2012



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

Dear Ms Rooney,

The Minister for Health, Dr. James Reilly, T.D., has asked me to thank you for your recent letter concerning the New National Children's Hospital.

As you will be aware, the Minister for Health recently established an independent group to consider the implications of the decision of An Bord Pleanála received on 23 February 2012 to reject the planning application for the proposed construction of a national paediatric hospital on the site of the Mater Misericordiae Hospital. The Minister appointed Dr Frank Dolphin to Chair the Group. The Terms of Reference for the Review Group are as follows:

- To inform itself about the planning considerations and processes affecting this project.
- To consider the different options which now exist for progressing the construction of a national children's hospital having regard to –
 - (a) Government policy on the delivery of health services, including accessibility and paediatric services in particular and best clinical practice considerations,
 - (b) the cost and value for money considerations of the different options,
 - (c) the likely timelines associated with the different options,
 - (d) the implementation risks associated with the different options.
- To advise the Minister, in the light of these considerations, on the appropriate next steps to take with a view to ensuring that a national paediatric hospital can be constructed with minimal delay.
- To report to the Minister within 56 days of the first meeting of the group.

The aim of this Review is to consider all the possible options for the delivery of a new children's hospital. The Review Group will present their findings on each of the possible options for the Minister's consideration.

Your correspondence will be brought to the attention of the Review Group.

I trust that this clarifies the matter for you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Doran". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial 'S'.

Stephen Doran
Private Secretary