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Issue	Connolly for Kids - CLAIMS	The new children’s hospital on a shared campus with St. James’s Hospital – FACTS
Clinical outcomes for Ireland’s sickest children and young people	<i>“The decision to locate at St James’s Hospital is purely a political decision.”</i>	As is best practice internationally from a clinical perspective, the new children’s hospital will be tri-located with an adult teaching hospital – St James’s Hospital - and in due course, with the relocated Coombe Women and Infants University Hospital.
<p>THE FACTUAL BACKGROUND</p> <p>The Government decision that the new children's hospital should be co-located with St James's on its campus was clinically led.</p> <p>St. James’s Hospital is Ireland’s largest and leading adult teaching and research-intensive hospital. It has the greatest number of clinical specialities and national services in the acute adult hospital system. It also has the widest range of adult sub-specialities that can support paediatric services, ensuring patients with conditions whose prevalence does not warrant paediatric-only consultants, get the best support.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In 2006, the McKinsey report, Children’s Health First, recommended that the population of Ireland and projected demand could support only one world-class tertiary paediatric centre, that this should be in Dublin and that it should ideally be co-located with a leading adult academic hospital, to ensure relevant sub-specialty and academic linkages. The McKinsey report recognised the importance for quality of healthcare of having a critical mass of sub-specialist skills in a tertiary centre and stated this could be achieved firstly, by serving a large enough population to support a full complement of sub-specialists and secondly, by co-locating with an adult teaching hospital thus enabling access to specialties that encompass both adult and paediatric patients, facilitating clinical and academic “cross fertilisation”, and attracting the top staff. - Reviews since 2006 have reaffirmed the importance of co-location with a major adult academic teaching hospital. In 2011, the then Minister, Senator Reilly, established an Independent Review Group to examine the project at the Mater. The clinical aspect of this review was carried out by a team of four Chief Executive Officers drawn from the National Association of Children’s Hospitals (NACHRI) and the Children’s Hospitals International Executive Forum 		

(CHIEF). Their report stated that “co-locating with tertiary adult and maternity hospitals is essential to the development of an excellent paediatric service. This has become best practice internationally and was recognized in the McKinsey report.”

- In 2012, following the refusal of planning permission for the project at the Mater campus, Minister Reilly established the Dolphin Review Group to advise on next steps. Their report stated that “Having reviewed the reports already prepared and considered their analysis and opinions, and having also consulted with a wide range of professionals in the field, we are also of the view that co-location is essential and tri-location optimal. We recommend that the Minister remains on this path. It identified St James’s as the most suitable adult partner for the new children’s hospital, from a clinical and research perspective.
- The Government decision to co-locate the hospital with St James's was announced on 6 November 2012. In identifying the location, the Government considered the report of the Dolphin Group, and detailed supplementary information on cost, time and planning which was subsequently sought from those members of the Group with the relevant technical expertise. The decision was made in the best interests of children, with clinical considerations paramount in the decision. As announced in June 2015, the Coombe Women and Infants University Hospital will relocate to the campus in time, achieving tri-location of adult, paediatric and maternity services. Tri-location has benefits for children, adolescents, sick new-borns and high-risk mothers. In all cases, the benefits of tri-location are maximised where the adult hospital provides the broadest possible range of clinical sub-specialties and expertise, which are readily accessible for paediatric and maternity patients on the shared campus. Also, tri-location that delivers the most significant breadth and depth of clinical and academic research on site will enhance the potential of research to drive best clinical outcomes. St James's Hospital has the broadest range of national specialties of all acute hospitals, as well as a strong and well established research and education infrastructure, making it the hospital that best meets the criteria to be the adult co-location partner.

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Access	<i>With 90% of children living outside the M50, the specialist tertiary medical needs of the sickest children in the country would clearly be better addressed on an accessible site off the M50.”</i>	The vast majority of paediatric services are delivered on a same day basis (OPD, Emergency / Urgent Care) and as close to the child’s home as medically appropriate. The regional and local paediatric units around the country will continue to deliver paediatric care to the vast majority of children in their local catchment.

The vast majority (78%) of children currently attending the existing three children’s hospitals come from within the Greater Dublin Area (GDA) that is Dublin, Meath, Kildare and Wicklow. These children will be served in the future by the hospital and the two new Paediatric OPD and Urgent Care Centres at Tallaght and Connolly Hospitals. This arrangement means that General Paediatrics and Urgent Care services are local and convenient in the Dublin area. 22% of the patients currently attending the three Dublin children’s hospitals are children from outside the Greater Dublin Area who require specialist services. These specialist services will be provided in the new children’s hospital on a campus shared with St. James’s Hospital when it opens in 2021.

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Delivery	<i>It can be built cheaper and faster at Connolly.”</i>	The claim that it would be cheaper and faster to build the hospital at a greenfield site such as Connolly Hospital is pure speculation. The NPHDB estimates that an attempt to move the hospital to Connolly would result in a significant delay and at least an additional €250 million spend, not savings

THE FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Planning permission has been granted and the first phase of construction is underway on the site of the hospital on a shared campus with St James’s Hospital. Evaluation of the main contractor tenders has been completed and subject to Government approval the second phase of construction will start in Q1 2017, with the new children’s hospital fully operational by 2021.

No detailed costing of the project at Connolly has been undertaken. Given the scale of the project, rising construction inflation, significant infrastructural challenges, lack of opportunity to make efficiencies through shared clinical services, and the ‘write off’ of expenditure to date – a development at Connolly Hospital would be more expensive. In particular the proposed Connolly for Kids site adjacent to the Connolly Hospital Campus is “greenfield” and has no existing infrastructure such as foul and surface water drainage, resilient and diverse ESB and gas supplies, mains water, roads, and appropriate transportation access to the site to include both private car and public transport. The existing junction connecting the N3 to the Connolly Hospital campus does not have the capacity to support a proposed children’s hospital.

The ‘flipping the sites’ claim gives no cognisance to the population health care planning requirements of children and families that live in the inner city. It is not possible to ‘flip the sites’. A further site selection review would take at least 6 months, a new design brief at least a further 6 months, and the process of design and planning would – based on the experience of the project that has received planning permission at St James’s Hospital would take at least 4 years. The new children’s hospital and satellite centres will be substantially built at that point and furthermore there is no guarantee that a new children’s hospital would get the necessary zoning or planning at Connolly.

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Location	<i>"The sites can be flipped"</i>	The transition of the new children's hospital from the current site at St. James's would require the abandonment of all the work undertaken to date, a further review and decision on location and require a whole new design and planning process. This would lead to a significant delay in developing this hospital, and most likely a significant increase in project costs arising from construction inflation.
<p>THE FACTUAL BACKGROUND</p> <p>Connolly site issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✘ The size of the land available at Connolly Hospital is actually less than half of the 145 acres Connolly For Kids claim is available (<i>The St. James's Hospital Campus is 50 acres; the new children's hospital will sit on 12 acres of the Campus.</i>) ✘ The land at Connolly is not owned by the HSE; It would need to be purchased, at what price? ✘ The land is not zoned and there is cost, time and potentially planning difficulties in securing rezoning. ✘ It is very likely that a planning application to place a children's hospital at Connolly will not be successful due to a lack of transportation capacity at the N3/M50 junction. This has been validated by the refusal by ABP of the proposed extension to the Liffey Valley Shopping Centre due to concerns in relation to the M50 traffic congestion. Significant investment would be required in both local and regional road and public transport infrastructure to support the application. ✘ Significant investment would also be required in bringing other utility infrastructure to the proposed Connolly site this is readily available at the St James's Hospital Campus. ✘ Additional investment would also be required on the campus to provide for services that presently exist at St James's campus such as Radiology, Genetics, Research etc. 		
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Maternity Hospital	<i>The Coombe is not part of the current planning application on the St James's Campus. Therefore, there is no guarantee that Planning Permission will be granted in the future, and in fact this</i>	It was announced in June 2015 and reaffirmed in January 2016 the Coombe Women and Infants University Hospital will relocate in time to the St James's campus, achieving tri-location of adult, paediatric and maternity services.

	<p><i>looks very unlikely given the lack of available space.”</i></p> <p><i>The relocation of the Coombe to the St James’s Hospital Campus will be delayed by up to 15 years.”</i></p>	
<p>A 3-acre site for the proposed maternity hospital is identified in the Site Master Plan for the St James's campus, and the new children's hospital design has incorporated the required operational links with both maternity and adult hospitals.</p> <p>The capacity of this proposed site to support a 10,000 birth Maternity Hospital (larger than existing Coombe Hospital) and its future expansion was discussed in depth in the Oral Hearing. The proposed Maternity Hospital can easily be accommodated on this proposed site in accordance with DCC development plan.</p> <p>While the construction of the new maternity hospital on the campus will not commence until the new children’s hospital is near completion, consideration will be given to the work required to advance to the new maternity hospital design, which must be done before a planning application is prepared. At a meeting of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Health on November 10, 2016 the Minister for Health Simon Harris TD said <i>“I would like to see us now moving ahead with the planning permission phase for the Coombe.”</i></p> <p>It is envisaged that a period of 2.5 to 3 years are required to agree the design brief, procure a design team, obtain planning and procure works contractors before the project may commence on site.</p>		
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<p>Rotunda re location</p>	<p><i>The Rotunda Maternity Hospital will be re-located to the Connolly campus.”</i></p>	<p>While it is planned that the Rotunda is to relocate to Connolly Hospital, it is important to note that there is no design team in place to prepare for a planning application for this project and there is no funding provision in the capital programme at this stage. Connolly Hospital has not yet submitted a site capacity plan or sought planning permission for the maternity hospital.</p>
<p>There is no master plan for Connolly that incorporates the building of a new children’s hospital. Connolly Hospital Campus campus has been chosen as the location for the future Rotunda Maternity Hospital and an NCH satellite Centre. These decisions informed the need for a new masterplan for the Campus. An outline project brief for the masterplan has been agreed and the process for preparation of the new masterplan has commenced.</p>		

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<p>Access and Parking</p>	<p><i>St James's Hospital Campus has awful access and pathetic parking."</i></p> <p><i>"Staff from St James's Hospital will be able to use the children's hospital car park, further reducing parking capacity."</i></p> <p><i>The St James's Hospital Campus only has two natural entry points."</i></p>	<p>The issue of access to the children's hospital is of great importance to everyone associated with this project. The design of the hospital has recognised the need of most parents to access the hospital by car, and ample parking has been provided for families based on current and projected future demand.</p> <p>Rigorous analysis on car parking was undertaken during the planning process, and adjudicated on by An Bord Pleanála, to determine that parking was appropriately planned for the new children's hospital.</p> <p>Access Points at St James's Hospital Campus</p> <p>For those travelling by car, extensive planning has gone into ensuring that the campus is as accessible as possible. There are currently two access points in place on the St. James's Campus, and a third vehicular entrance is being introduced from Mount Brown along with a further pedestrian entrance at the Rialto Luas stop.</p> <p>This will improve the flow of traffic to and from the campus and will reduce pressure from any one-entrance point.</p>
<p>The parking system will also allow families to reserve spaces ahead of arriving to the hospital, and emergency drop-off spaces are also being provided. St. James's Hospital campus is also better served by public transport than any other hospital in the country. An Bord Pleanála was satisfied with the measures proposed to mitigate traffic issues around the campus, and provide for parking (675 for families, 325 for staff), while also noting that no other site enjoys such connectivity with public transport.</p> <p>The planning application to build the new children's hospital on the St. James's Campus included a traffic management and traffic mobility plan for the construction and operational phase which was endorsed by the National Transport Authority and Dublin City Council. A 10-day oral hearing took place in December 2015 in which traffic evidence was presented in detail and allowed for cross-questioning by those who had concerns. On 28 April 2016, An Bord Pleanála granted planning permission for the new children's hospital on the campus shared with St. James's Hospital and for satellite urgent care centres on the campuses of Tallaght and Connolly Hospital without change to the proposed traffic and mobility plan.</p>		

An Bord Pleanála's inspector's report, which includes assessment and recommendations in relation to traffic impact at construction and operational stages, can be found at <http://www.pleanala.ie/documents/reports/PA0/RPA0043.pdf>

Family parking

- There will be 1,000 car parking spaces at the new children's hospital. In recognition of the fact that most families will need access the hospital by car, 675 will be reserved entirely for families.
- This is three times the current available parking at the three children's hospitals in Dublin, and is based on projected future demand.
- For families of children with complex needs, there will be larger car parking spaces for those who need additional space for transportation of medical equipment;
- 27 emergency parking spaces are planned for outside the Emergency Department with a concierge system for times of emergency; a reservation system will be in place for planned appointments. The car park is underground with direct access to the public lift to the hospital.

Staff parking

- The St. James's Hospital Campus Smarter Travel Programme is up and running and, in accordance with planning guidelines, it has ambitious targets to reduce staff car dependency.
- It has the full support of both the National Transport Authority and Dublin City Council, and is being delivered in partnership with both.
- The Campus at St. James's Hospital is centrally located in Dublin and has more public transport links than any other hospital in the country. [Linked to Dublin City Centre via Dublin Bus and LUAS, to regional locations by train from Heuston and Connolly stations, and to Bus Aras via the LUAS Red Line. There are also a number of Dublin Bike Stations close to the campus for staff and student access.
- There is already evidence of a modal shift from private car to public transport at the St. James's Hospital and the targets set are deliverable, as is evident from the successful implementation of a similar programme at the Mater Hospital where staff parking has reduced from 600 to 100 in recent years as part of a shift to public transport usage.
- 325 car parking spaces have been provided for staff.
- The availability of sustainable public transport is critical for good planning in this type of development, and in particular for those who do not have a car. Some 2,500 students will be accessing the site every year, for example. The level of public transport available at Connolly is far inferior to that available at St James's and poses a significant constraint in placing a children's hospital adjacent to this campus.

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Parking /Access	<i>"Parking at Connolly would be unlimited and there would be no need for an underground car park."</i>	Any suggestion that unlimited parking would be available at a greenfield site at Connolly Hospital is misleading. This site would be subject to the same national planning policies.
<p>Please note the following comments from the An Bord Pleanála Inspector's report:</p> <p><i>"There is a flaw, in my opinion, in the argument put forward by some of those who advocate a greenfield site adjacent to the M50. They appear to assume that unfettered access off the national and primary route and unfettered access to on-site car parking can be accommodated. The same national, regional and local transportation policies are equally applicable at that location as they are at the application site and do not support such a strategy."</i></p> <p><i>Access at Connolly</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connolly Hospital currently only has one public access and exit point • A new access road/overhead bridge would need to be constructed to manage the flow of staff/patients/visitors/deliveries at the new children's hospital – with the significant cost implications should TII and NTA support it. • This would result in complex planning risk implications as the Tolka Valley area is an environmentally protected area. <p><i>Parking at Connolly</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to the lack of public transport options, it is not unreasonable to estimate that 2,500 car parking spaces would be needed for a new children's hospital at Connolly. • To ask that an extra 2500 cars access the already congested N3 and M50 on a daily basis is a major planning risk – see above statement by the Inspector of An Bord Pleanala, and also the recent planning refusal on traffic grounds to an extension to the Liffey Valley Shopping Centre. • A surface car park would not suffice for a children's hospital at Connolly and a multi storey car park at Connolly would be necessary 		
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Expansion	<i>"There is a perfect 145-acre site available for the new National Children's Hospital next to Connolly Memorial Hospital."</i>	The new children's hospital has been designed to meet projected child population growth, unmet clinical need and trends in epidemiology and health care.

	<i>"Insufficient room for expansion."</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The site of available land Connolly Hospital is not 145 acres, it is actually less than half that. • The St. James's Hospital Campus is approximately 50 acres, equivalent to 25 soccer pitches. 12 acres are available to the new children's hospital – equivalent to the space for 6 soccer pitches. • The new children's hospital design is based on meticulous healthcare planning which will result in a facility which can provide for very significant expansion (25-30%) within the core building - in the delivery of healthcare. Beyond this, a further 20% expansion capacity has been identified outside of the current building footprint. 	
Issue	Connolly for Kids - CLAIMS	The new children's hospital on a shared campus with St. James's Hospital – FACTS
Neonatal Retrieval	<i>"The difficulty in accessing St James's Hospital will lead to the unavoidable deaths of children."</i>	Rigorous analysis was undertaken during the planning process to ensure that access and parking were appropriately planned for the new children's hospital. An Bord Pleánala independently assessed this evidence and adjudicated that it was satisfied that sufficient plans were in place.
<p>At the An Bord Pleanála Oral hearing regarding the new children's hospital, Dr Jan Franta, Consultant Neonatologist at the Coombe Women and Infants Hospital and Clinical Lead of the National Neonatal Transport Programme (NNTP) said the following in relation to neonatal retrieval:</p> <p><i>"In neonatal transport, risk assessment and awareness play great roles in risk management and reduction. In NNTP's 14 years' history there has not been single fatality in transport. If we looked at its operation from purely the risk point of view – taking into account the two main aspects- likelihood and consequence of event occurring, neonatal critical care provided by the NNTP would be one of the safest means of intensive care delivery, in hospital or outside of it."</i></p> <p>It should also be noted that St. James's Hospital – an acute adult teaching hospital - functions as one of the best in the country in terms of ambulance access and exit.</p>		
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Helipad Access	<i>"Air and Sea Rescue Helicopters will be unable to Land"</i>	There will be an elevated helipad at the new children's hospital, which will have direct and rapid access to the Critical Care, Theatre and Emergency Departments within the hospital. This enhanced direct and rapid access will improve clinical outcomes for the sickest children and young people.

The helipad has been designed in close consultation with the National Ambulance Service Aeromedical Liaison Service who are responsible for providing helicopter services to hospitals. We have also consulted with the Irish Aviation Authority and the Air Corps who are the primary provider of paediatric helicopter services to the National Ambulance Service. The Helipad has been designed in accordance with the ICAO Heliport manual and also with the Irish Aviation Authority Operations Advisory Manual (OAM) No. 08/100; which both represent international best practice. Air Corps helicopters comprising Augusta Westland AW139 can land on a raised landing site or the roof of a building, which is designed and certified for such operations.

An elevated helipad is more appropriate on the St. James's Campus and indeed any urban campus because:

- Easier flight path, wider range of potential flight path orientations with fewer obstacles.
- Closer to key departments in the new children's hospital and the existing Adult hospital and future Maternity hospital
- Less impact on residential amenity due to the higher elevation of flight path above homes.
- Does not constrain the existing campus or its future expansion.

When reviewing the alternatives with the Irish Aviation Authority and the Air Corps, they recommended against a ground helipad due to the constrained flight paths and obstacle clearance. Use of elevated landing sites on the roof of Hospitals is widespread in the UK and Europe and many of the recently completed Paediatric hospitals have elevated helipads. The Irish Coast Guard also provides reserve support to the National Ambulance Service, when required, through its Sikorsky S92 search and rescue fleet primarily for Search and Rescue missions. The Sikorsky S92 helicopters are not licensed to land on helipads and, for access to the St. James's Campus, would land in the Royal Hospital Kilmainham from which patients would be transferred in an ambulance by road, which is current practice.

The majority of patient transfers to the three Dublin children's hospitals are completed by road. In any major emergency rescue in a rural area, a Sikorsky Helicopter will bring the patient to the nearest regional hospital for stabilisation resulting in appropriately planned transfer to the new children's hospital. The maximum number of helicopter journeys (patient transfers) to the three Dublin children's hospitals between 2012 and 2015 for the Neonatal Transportation Programme, Paediatric Transport Programme, Emergency, and Search and Rescue averaged 1 per week of which 14% related to Search and Rescue. In consultation with the National Ambulance Service, the Neonatal Transportation Service and the Paediatric Transport Service it is predicted that this could rise to an average of 2 per week of which 7% is associated with Search and Rescue (Sikorsky S92 helicopter). This average of 2 per week takes into account possible increases in the Neonatal and Paediatric Transportation Services, Search and Rescue and unknown future expansion.

There will also be direct access from the helipad through the new children's hospital to the St. James's Hospital for Adult services and future Maternity services as required.

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Outdoor Space	<i>"There is no green space anywhere on the St. James's Campus."</i>	<p>There are four acres of outdoor areas and gardens at the new children's hospital.</p> <p>The four acres of outdoor areas at the new children's hospital comprises 14 separate gardens and courtyards including the Rainbow Garden which is the length of Croke Park. These gardens and courtyards are consistently spread across the hospital adjacent to key clinical departments and easily accessible to support patients, families and staff. The design of these garden spaces is being finalised following engagement with patients and their families. There will also be indoor gardens which can be used by patients, families and staff during bad weather.</p>
Issue	Connolly for Kids - CLAIMS	The new children's hospital on a shared campus with St. James's Hospital – FACTS
Workforce planning	<i>"No workforce planning has been undertaken."</i>	<p>The workforce planning strategy for the new children's hospital and two Paediatric OPD and Urgent Care Centres was commenced in 2015 by the Children's Hospital Group.</p> <p>This is being undertaken as part of the planning and analysis to support the Business Case for the development of paediatric services for children and young people in the Greater Dublin Area and when appropriate, national paediatric services, to include the new capital builds. This workforce planning involved engagement with clinical leaders and management across the three children's hospitals and was guided by the HSE approved National Model of Care for Paediatric and Neonatology Healthcare Services. The workforce planning strategy is a dynamic 5-year planning process required to support the staffing requirements, change management and staff training requirements in addition it will enable a robust resource strategy to ensure we have the right staff number of staff in the right place at the right time support the vision for paediatric services.</p>

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Drainage & Infrastructure	<p><i>"The Main Drimnagh sewer runs through the proposed location of the underground car park and this will have to be relocated along with other services before excavation for the car park can commence. The cost of that work will add an additional €18 million."</i></p>	<p>The estimated cost of work to divert the Drimnagh Sewer is €3 million euro. This is detailed in Chapter 17 of the Environmental Impact Statement</p> <p>The existing sewer runs diagonally from southeast to north-west across the proposed site. Early on, alternative options were explored to test whether the sewer could be left in place or diverted to the west or east of the proposed building. The preferred diversion routes the new section of sewer are to the east of the new children's hospital. The proposed diversion enables the existing sewer to be upgraded with new pipework and manholes.</p> <p>It should also be noted that a major upgrade to the existing trunk sewer located adjacent to the Tolka river together with new foul and surface water drainage with even higher cost implications, would be required t the proposed site at Connolly Hospital.</p>
Issue	Connolly for Kids - CLAIMS	The new children's hospital on a shared campus with St. James's Hospital – FACTS
Consultation	<p><i>"The site was chosen without a single report ever recommending it and without the involvement of either parents or staff."</i></p> <p><i>"Despite our group's wide- reaching expertise, the Government has steadfastly refused to engage with us."</i></p>	<p>Children and advocacy groups presented to the Dolphin Review Group as part of its consultation exercise. On foot of a series of reports and consultations, the Government decided in 2012 that, as one of Ireland's leading adult teaching hospitals, St. James's Hospital is the most appropriate adult partner for the new children's hospital with which to co-locate.</p> <p>Children and young people, who are former and current users of the service, families, as well as, staff from the three children's hospitals and residents from the area neigbbouring the new children's hospital site, all took part in the extensitve consultation and engagement which was undertaken during the planning stage of the project. This process has led to the development of a world-class building which has been designed to enable staff to deliver the best possible clinical care for children and young people.</p>

		At each meeting of the Family Forums hosted by the NPHDB during the design stage of the hospital, Connolly for Kids representatives were in attendance, along with other advocacy groups and families.
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Statements of Support from Leading Clinicians and Professors

“As the people who are at the forefront of delivering paediatric healthcare services in the three Dublin children’s hospitals, we were delighted and relieved when planning permission was granted in April for the new children’s hospital at St James’s Hospital and the two urgent care and outpatient department satellite centres at Tallaght and Connolly hospitals. The delivery of these new facilities, and the bringing together of staff from the three children’s hospitals in a world-class building on a campus shared with St James’s Hospital, will positively transform and improve the healthcare that is delivered to children that need it the most.

Co-locating with one of Ireland’s leading hospitals – St James’s Hospital – is important because it ensures that our staff will be supported in the best possible way to deliver improved clinical outcomes for Ireland’s sickest children. This is what matters most to us, and to the families that we serve. In time, the Coombe Women & Infants University Hospital will also be relocated to the same greater Dublin area campus – making the campus at St James’s Hospital an unrivalled campus of healthcare excellence and expertise. There is no alternative hospital that would deliver the multiplicity of benefits to the children and young people in our care than St James’s Hospital.

It is recognised international best practice, from a clinical perspective, to locate children’s hospitals on the same campus as an adult teaching hospital with the breadth and depth of specialities to support complex paediatric services and a maternity hospital that provides service for high-risk mothers and babies. This is known as tri-location. The tri-location of the new children’s hospital, St James’s Hospital and in time the relocated Coombe Women and Infants University Hospital will create a campus of clinical expertise to support highly specialist service delivery, research, innovation and education. The selection of this location by an expert group four years ago was the right decision and one that we support.

Ireland is finally getting the children’s hospital that young people, children and families so badly deserve. We are motivated to ensure that this happens, as planned and on schedule. We work with children and families in inappropriate conditions every day. We have committed our time and energy into ensuring that the design of the new children’s hospital meets their clinical and mental needs – ensuring that the facilities and the care are the best available anywhere in the world. The development team is just weeks away from getting started. We plan to be out there with them on this momentous day for Ireland.”

Dr PETER GREALLY,
Group Clinical Director, Children's Hospital Group;
Dr CIARA MARTIN,
Clinical Director, National Children's Hospital at Tallaght Hospital;
SUZANNE DEMPSEY,
Chief Director of Nursing, Children's Hospital Group;
Dr SEAN WALSH,
Clinical Director, Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin

Dr ADRIENNE FORAN,
Clinical Director, Temple Street Children's University Hospital;
MARIAN CONNOLLY,
Director of Nursing, National Children's Hospital, at Tallaght Hospital;
GRAINNE BAUER,
Director of Nursing, Temple Street Children's University Hospital;
RACHEL KENNA,
Director of Nursing, Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin.

"We are unequivocal in our certainty that the campus at St. James's Hospital is the right location for Ireland's much needed and much wanted new children's hospital. Sharing a campus with St. James's Hospital will deliver better clinical outcomes and improved survival rates for the sickest children and young people. Collectively we are committed to delivering a state of the art children's hospital and to providing the right care and services, in the right location, by the right team, for local children and for Ireland's most vulnerable children and young people. Much of the infrastructure of the three Dublin children's hospitals does not allow us to provide the best possible care, as services are on three different locations in Dublin, and this is a source of great daily frustration for all the committed staff working in paediatric services.

There are many reasons why the campus shared with St James's Hospital is the right location for the new children's hospital, but the primary one is that it has the greatest number of clinical specialties that will best support our teams in the delivery of better services and clinical outcomes for our sickest children and young people. This critical level of clinical support is not available at Connolly Hospital.

It is recognised international best practice from a clinical perspective to locate children's hospitals on the same campus as an adult teaching hospital with the breadth and depth of specialities to support complex paediatric services and a maternity hospital that provides service for high risk mothers and babies – this is known as tri-location. The tri-location of these three hospitals – the new children's hospital, St James's Hospital and in time the relocated Coombe Women & Infants University Hospital - will create a campus of unrivalled clinical expertise to support highly specialist service delivery, research, innovation and education."

The Children's Hospital Group; the National Paediatric Hospital Development Board; Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin; Temple Street Children's University Hospital; the National Children's Hospital, Tallaght and St. James's Hospital

"We the three Professors of Paediatrics in the three Dublin Universities collectively support the campus at St James' Hospital as the selected location for the new children's hospital, which includes academic and research facilities. This campus is unparalleled in the opportunity it presents not just for paediatrics but the whole health system. Collectively we work collaborately for the speciality of paediatrics. The existing three children's hospitals have some well recognised capabilities and by tri-locating these with the adult and maternity services their academic capability will create a cadre of research capabilities that will offer

the potential to make real changes, treatments and cures to the most complex diseases such as cystic fibrosis, immunology, neurology and genetics, for children, young people and future generations.”

Professors Owen Smith, UCD, Eleanor Molloy, TCD and Alf Nicholson, RSCI