

Chapter 1 Introduction

1.0 Background

This Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been commissioned by the National Paediatric Hospital Development Board (NPHDB) for the integrated development of the new children's hospital, Family Accommodation Unit and the Children's Research and Innovation Centre at St. James's Hospital campus, a construction compound at Davitt Road and two children's hospital satellite centres at Tallaght Hospital campus and Connolly Hospital campus¹.

The EIS identifies the potential environmental effects, both positive and negative, that are predicted to arise due to the proposed development and outlines measures to address same where required. It is a methodical and detailed evaluation of the environment within which the National Paediatric Hospital Project², an integrated development, is proposed. The EIS provides An Bord Pleanála with the necessary information to enable an informed decision on this Strategic Infrastructure Development.

The Report '*The Clinical Case for the New Children's Hospital, its Satellite Centres and Tri-Location*' prepared by the NPHDB, see appendix to Chapter 2, indicates that the primary mission of the new children's hospital and children's hospital satellite centres is to ensure that the children of Ireland are provided with a level of healthcare that meets international best practice. The remit of the new children's hospital has two separate but linked service delivery responsibilities. It will provide tertiary / quaternary (highly specialised, small volume) services on an all-island basis and secondary paediatric care (higher volume but less severe and less complicated conditions) to the Greater Dublin Area (counties Dublin, Wicklow, Kildare and parts of Meath). The Hospital must offer highly developed tertiary and quaternary services across a broad range of sub-specialities, so that children and young people with life-threatening and complex chronic medical and surgical conditions can have the best possible therapeutic interventions which will deliver the best clinical outcomes. Such excellence in modern paediatric clinical practice can only be provided with the centralisation of paediatric specialities in one location supported by a large academic adult hospital with a broad range of sub-specialities that supports the delivery of acute paediatric healthcare and provides support for basic science research-led discovery and its translation into clinical practice³. Secondary care, by its nature less complex and requiring less specialised equipment and staff can and should ideally be delivered as close to the child's home as possible.

Overall, the '*Clinical Case*' Report explains how the development of the new children's hospital and the emerging future Maternity Hospital on a campus shared with St. James's Hospital provide the optimal model of care for the sickest children, new-born infants and women. This model will enhance the care and clinical outcomes of children attending the new children's hospital from all over Ireland and that of infants. From a primary focus of doing what is right for the sickest children, new-born infants and women, this model of tri-location is fully acknowledged by healthcare providers to be the optimum model of service delivery to achieve the best clinical outcomes⁴. In conclusion, the '*Clinical Case*' Report states that the decision to build the new children's hospital, a single hospital providing secondary general local care and all-island specialist care provides a unique opportunity to improve paediatric care and clinical outcomes for all the children of Ireland and that it is one of the most positive developments in child health in the history of the State⁵.

The proposed development is described in detail in Chapter 2 of this EIS while the accompanying Planning Report details the full contents of the planning application. The EIS is an important document forming part of the package which also includes *inter alia*:

- Architectural Design Statements – new children's hospital and children's hospital satellite centres (Connolly Hospital and Tallaght Hospital)
- Public Realm Strategy - new children's hospital
- Local Regeneration Opportunities Study - lands in the vicinity of St. James's Hospital campus
- Natura Impact Statement – for the National Paediatric Hospital Project

In addition to the above, Draft Site Capacity Studies have been prepared for St. James's Hospital campus, Tallaght Hospital campus and Connolly Hospital campus outlining site context and development capacity at each location. As the St. James's Hospital campus is the site of the main new children's hospital the Draft Site Capacity Study is detailed and sets out the:

- Overarching aims of the hospital, specifically in relation to health policy and planning and the hospital's role in delivering on government policies.
- Key objectives for the hospital in terms of the space it seeks to deliver, identifying the overall hospital strategy and expressing it spatially.

¹ In this EIS Connolly Hospital Blanchardstown is referred to as Connolly Hospital and the Adelaide and Meath Hospital incorporating the National Children's Hospital at Tallaght is referred to as Tallaght Hospital.

² National Paediatric Hospital Project includes the proposed developments at St. James's, Connolly and Tallaght campuses along with the site at Davitt Road.

³ NPHDB Report - "*The Clinical Case for the New Children's Hospital, its Satellite Centres and Tri-Location*"

⁴ NPHDB Report - "*The Clinical Case for the New Children's Hospital, its Satellite Centres and Tri-Location*"

⁵ NPHDB Report - "*The Clinical Case for the New Children's Hospital, its Satellite Centres and Tri-Location*"



At the campus level the Draft Site Capacity Study outlines:

- The development potential/capacity, having regard to planning, site constraints, site infrastructure requirements, and traffic and transportation matters.
- Areas for development/redevelopment.

The children's hospital satellite centres at Connolly Hospital campus and Tallaght Hospital campus are small in scale relative to the overall hospitals/built environment and therefore, Draft Site Capacity Studies are less detailed but identify areas for future development and a range of development scales subject to detailed design.

1.1 Legislative Context

1.1.1 European Legislative Context

The undertaking of an Environmental Impact Assessment is prescribed by the requirements of the European Community Council Directives on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment. The requirement for a formal EIS was first introduced to European Union Member States through Directive 85/337/EEC. This Directive was transcribed into Irish Law through Statutory Instrument (SI) 349 of 1989, European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations, 1989. The initial Directive of 1985 and its three amendments (1997, 2003, and 2009) were codified by Directive 2011/92/EU in December 2011⁶.

1.1.2 Irish Legislative Context

The adoption of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (the Act) consolidated the previous Planning Acts and the existing Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations at that time. The Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (SI 600/01) provide for the implementation of the Act as well as incorporating and updating the Local Government (Planning and Development Regulations) 1994 – 2001, and Regulations made to date under the Act itself. The Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended) outline the classes of projects subject to Environmental Impact Assessment and the statutory format and content for an EIS. Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended) sets out the categories of development for which an EIS is required, while Schedule 6 outlines the information to be contained in an EIS. Schedule 7 outlines the criteria for determining whether a development would or would not be likely to have significant effects on the environment.

The acceptance of the proposal as Strategic Infrastructure Development by An Bord Pleanála also requires the production of an EIS. In this regard, the Seventh Schedule of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as inserted by the 2006 Planning Amendment (Strategic Infrastructure Development) Act, was amended by Section 78 of the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act, 2010 to include the Strategic Infrastructure Development category of "Health Infrastructure". The definition of 'Health Infrastructure' as now provided for in the Seventh Schedule (as inserted by Section 41 Environment [Miscellaneous Provisions] Act, 2011) is as follows:

*"4. Development comprising the following:
A health care facility (other than a development which is predominantly for the purposes of providing care services (within the meaning of section 3 of the Nursing Homes Support Scheme Act 2009)) which, whether or not the facility is intended to form part of another health care facility, shall provide in-patient services and shall have not fewer than 100 beds in order to so provide."*

Following statutory pre-application consultations An Bord Pleanála under Section 37B of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) served notice that under Section 37B(4)(a) that in their opinion the proposed development falls within the scope of paragraph (a) of Section 37A(2) of the Act (as amended). Accordingly, An Bord Pleanála decided that the proposed development would be strategic infrastructure within the meaning of Section 37A of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended). Therefore, any application for the proposed development must be made directly to An Bord Pleanála under Section 37E of the Act. Section 37E(1) requires the following:

"An application for permission for development in respect of which a notice has been served under Section 37B(4)(a) shall be made to the Board and shall be accompanied by an environmental impact statement in respect of the proposed development."

⁶ Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (2014/52/EU) entered into force on 15th May 2014 to simplify the rules for assessing the potential effects of projects on the environment. Member States have to apply this Directive (2014/52/EU) from 16th May 2017 at the latest and need to communicate to the Commission the national legislation adopted in order to comply with the Directive.

As the proposed development has been determined by An Bord Pleanála to be Strategic Infrastructure Development⁷, this EIS has been produced and is submitted in accordance with the requirements of Section 37E(1) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended). This EIS has been informed by the pre-application consultations with An Bord Pleanála as part of the Strategic Infrastructure process, by the guidance and requirements contained in the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended) and by the following documents:

- 'Guidelines on Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements', Environmental Protection Agency, 2002.
- Advice Notes on Current Practice (in Preparation of Environmental Impact Statements, Environmental Protection Agency, 2003

The content of this EIS conforms to the current relevant Environmental Impact Assessment requirements.

1.2 Objectives of Environmental Impact Assessment

Environmental Impact Assessment is a process for anticipating the impacts on the environment caused by a development. An EIS is the document produced as a result of that process. Environmental Impact Assessment is a systematic integrated evaluation of both positive and negative impacts of a project on the natural environment, on beneficial uses of the environment, including man-made structures, amenities and facilities, and the socio-cultural environment.

The aim of the approach is to identify and predict any impacts of significance for a given proposed development; to describe the means and extent by which they can be reduced or ameliorated; to interpret and communicate information about the potential impacts; and to provide an input into the decision-making and planning processes. Where effects are identified that are unacceptable, these can then be avoided or reduced during the design process⁸.

As above, the Environmental Protection Agency provides guidance on the information to be contained in its publications 'Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements', March 2002 and 'Advice Notes on Current Practice (in the preparation of Environmental Impact Statements)', September 2003. Specifically, the environmental areas that may be impacted by the proposed development are: Human Beings, Flora and Fauna, Soil and Geology, Hydrogeology and Hydrology, Air Quality and Climate, Noise and Vibration, Waste Management, Landscape and Visual Assessment, Archeological Heritage, Architectural and Cultural Heritage Material Assets - Site Services and Traffic and Transport.

This EIS addresses potential environmental impacts of the National Paediatric Hospital Project under these headings and having regard to a scoping exercise that was conducted as outlined below.

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1.3 Scoping

A scoping exercise was conducted to establish the range and aspects of the environment to be addressed in the EIS. Existing activities on site were examined and assessed, as were other comparable developments and EISs prepared for similar schemes. The scoping of the EIS also had regard to the following:

- Environmental Impact Assessment guidelines published by the Environmental Protection Agency.
- Guidance provided by An Bord Pleanála as part of pre-application consultations.
- The policy requirements of the relevant statutory plans for the three Local Authorities.
- The existing environment, including any vulnerable or sensitive features, including ecological features and items of archaeological significance.
- The likely and significant impacts of the proposal on the environment.
- Available methods of reducing or eliminating undesirable impacts.

Following the detailed consideration of the scope and having regard to the Environmental Protection Agency guidance, this EIS considers the following topics:

- Human Beings
- Flora and Fauna
- Soil and Geology
- Hydrogeology and Hydrology
- Noise and Vibration
- Air Quality and Climate
- Micro Climate
- Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
- Waste Management

⁷ Notice served under 37B(4)(a) from An Bord Pleanála dated the 10th July 2015.

⁸ Environmental Protection Agency, Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements, 2002.



- Traffic and Transport
- Archeological Heritage
- Architectural and Cultural Heritage
- Material Assets - Site Services
- Interactions and Potential Cumulative Impacts

The above covers the aspects of the environment which are most likely to be affected by the construction and operation of the National Paediatric Hospital Project and therefore, constitute the technical scope of the EIS. The EIS examines each of the above environmental topics, as prescribed by the Regulations, in a separate Chapter. The following items are addressed within the Chapters as appropriate:

- An introduction to the Chapter and the specific area of assessment
- The receiving environment
- Characteristics of the Proposed Development
- Potential Impact of the Proposed Development
- Ameliorative, Remedial or reductive measures
- Predicted Impact of the Proposed Development
- Monitoring
- Reinstatement

Given the nature of the development, i.e. a national healthcare facility and two children's hospital satellite centres all in separate administrative areas, the geographical coverage of the EIS was considered at length and discussed with the An Bord Pleanála as part of pre-application consultations. The below is a summary of the factors which were taken into account:

- The physical extent of the proposed works i.e. the areas within the red line application boundaries at all sites.
- The areas over which any potential impacts are likely to be disseminated which will be very different for the new children's hospital at St. James's Hospital campus versus the children's hospital satellite centres at Tallaght Hospital campus and Connolly Hospital campus.
- The baseline environment at all locations.

In this regard the potential impacts and the significance of the impacts will vary spatially.

The EIS covers both the construction and operation periods of all facilities. It is anticipated that the construction of the National Paediatric Hospital Project on St. James's Hospital campus will take c. 4 years. Subject to a grant of planning permission, it is expected that works would commence from Q1 of 2016, with internal fit out commencing from month 22. The operational phase will commence once the new children's hospital is fully equipped and operational. The children's hospital satellite centres will run to a shorter timeline with the development of both scheduled to commence construction, subject to a grant of planning permission, in Q2 2016 and be completed in approximately 18 months. In all instances the scope of the operation phase is extended beyond the opening date to ensure account is taken of the longer term nature of some impacts.

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1.4 Overview of the Proposed Development

The proposed development includes the construction of a new children's hospital on the St. James's Hospital campus and the children's hospital satellite centres at Tallaght Hospital campus and Connolly Hospital campus. The aim of the project is to provide a new children's hospital with a gross floor area of c.118,113 sq.m, with an additional 32,223 sq.m provided for the underground parking of vehicles, which will accommodate a c.473 bed children's hospital. The new children's hospital will have state-of-the-art operating theatres and will provide advanced diagnostics, intervention and theatre facilities. The children's hospital satellite centres at Tallaght Hospital campus and Connolly Hospital campus will have floorspace areas of c. 4,466 sq.m (including 1,324 sq.m of existing floorspace at ground floor) and 5,093 sq.m (including 103 sq.m of existing floorspace at ground floor) respectively. All clinical areas are designed based on international health standards and guidelines. The Project also provides a 53 bed family accommodation unit and a Children's Research and Innovation Centre both on St. James's Hospital campus.

In relation to the development on St. James's Hospital campus this will involve the demolition of a number of existing structures located to the south west of the Campus and associated with the existing hospital use. The principal demolition activities are provided in Chapter 2 of this EIS.

The St. James's Hospital campus has an on-going decanting programme which will facilitate the relocation of the uses and services currently being provided in the above-mentioned buildings.

In addition to the construction of the new children's hospital building a number of ancillary construction projects will be delivered including:

- A new vehicular entrance from Mount Brown.
- A new pedestrian access from the Rialto LUAS stop to the new children's hospital.
- The removal of the existing wall along South Circular Road will enhance interaction between the campus and the surrounding area.
- The upgrading of a portion of the linear park.
- The creation of a public piazza at the entrance to the hospital.
- Improved pedestrian access to and through the site.
- Upgrading of pedestrian access through the Campus.

The site at Davitt Road will act as a construction compound for the development on the St. James's Hospital campus and is located c.1.6km to the southwest of St. James's Hospital campus and is in the ownership of the Health Service Executive. It is a brownfield site measuring c.1.29ha of which c.0.8ha will be used for the proposed compound site set within the overall Health Service Executive lands. The site is intended to be made available for use as a compound for the duration of the construction period.

The children's hospital satellite centres being of a far smaller scale than the new children's hospital will be a physical extension to both Tallaght Hospital and Connolly Hospital. They have been designed to connect into the existing buildings at both locations and will result in works to certain areas within the existing hospitals, particularly in Tallaght, where a portion of the existing ground floor is utilised as part of the children's hospital satellite centre

A more detailed description of the development is provided in Chapter 2 'Project Description'.

1.5 Consultation

Consultation was undertaken which identified the environmental and community issues that needed to be taken into consideration in designing the proposed development, specifically the new children's hospital and in assessing the potential affects. This consultation was informed by the specific requirements for Strategic Infrastructure Developments and took two separate forms:

- Statutory consultation with:
 - An Bord Pleanála
 - Dublin City Council
 - South Dublin County Council
 - Fingal County Council
 - National Transport Authority
 - National Roads Authority now known as Transport Infrastructure Ireland
 - Railway Procurement Agency due to be part of Transport Infrastructure Ireland in August 2015
 - Electricity Supply Board
 - Ervia (formerly Bord Gáis Éireann)
 - Irish Aviation Authority
 - Córas Iompair Éireann - Dublin Bus
 - An Taisce
 - Irish Water
- On-going consultation with:
 - Children's Hospital Group Management Team
 - Local Residents
 - Community Groups
 - Local Councillors (Dublin City Council, Fingal County Council and South Dublin County Council)
 - St. James's Hospital
 - Staff from St. James's Hospital
 - Staff from Our Lady's Children's Hospital Crumlin
 - Staff from The National Children's Hospital at Tallaght
 - Staff from Temple Street Children's University Hospital
 - Cross Hospital Steering Group
 - Communication Managers
 - Information and Communication Technology Steering Group
 - Equipment Steering Group
 - Youth Advisory Council (YAC)
 - Family Forum
 - Children in Hospital Group
 - Tallaght Hospital Action Group
 - Advocacy Patient Forums
 - Special Needs Advocacy Patient Forums

Regard has been had to the comments, suggestions and information provided by the above mentioned bodies, groups and individuals as part of the consultation process in the preparation of this EIS.



CHILD
FRIENDLY
BY DESIGN



the new children's hospital

In relation to the Environmental Impact Assessment process the consultation undertaken focused on the following;

- Early consultation to inform and help define the scope of the EIS in terms of what needed to be examined.
- Consultation during the process to identify any emerging issues, clarify any concerns and ensure that all such issues were considered as part of the EIS.

Volume 1 of the application documentation contains the details of the consultation undertaken which informed the Environmental Impact Assessment process which is also discussed in the Planning Report submitted as part of the application.

1.6 List of Contributors and Experts

The following is a list of contributors and specialists to the EIS.

Table 1.1: List of Contributors and Experts

Chapter	Aspect of EIS Provided	Specialist Consultant
1	Introduction	GVA
2	Description of the Proposed Development	GVA
3	Planning and Development Context	GVA
4	Examination of Alternatives	GVA
5	Human Beings	GVA
6	Traffic & Transportation	Arup
7	Soil and Geology	O'Connor Sutton Cronin and Roughan & O'Donovan
8	Hydrogeology and Hydrology	O'Connor Sutton Cronin and Roughan & O'Donovan
9	Flora and Fauna	Brady Shipman Martin and Scott Cawley
10	Waste Management	AWN Consulting
11	Noise and Vibration	AWN Consulting
12	Air Quality and Climate	AWN Consulting
13	Micro Climate	Brady Shipman Martin and RWDI Consulting Engineers
14	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment	Brady Shipman Martin
15	Archaeological Heritage	Courtney Deery Heritage Consultancy
16	Architectural and Cultural Heritage	Courtney Deery Heritage Consultancy and Mr. Rob Goodbody
17	Material Assets – Site Services	O'Connor Sutton Cronin, Arup, Roughan & O'Donovan and Ethos Engineering
18	Interactions of the Foregoing	GVA

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1.7 Difficulties in Compiling Specified Information

No significant difficulties were experienced in compiling the necessary information for the proposed development. Where appropriate, surveys and references are provided as are the relevant sub-consultants, who acting on behalf of some of the above listed consultants, prepared the specialist reports.

1.8 Natural Resources

As the proposed development will not require the use of natural resources that are in short supply, nor will the development result in the emission of pollutants that will create nuisance or hazard, the matters referred to in Paragraph 2(a)(iii) of the Second Schedule of European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations, 1999 (S.I. No. 93, of 1999) do not apply.

1.9 Non-Technical Summary

A copy of the Non-Technical Summary of the EIS is provided as a separate and self-contained document, and is available to the public at the offices of An Bord Pleanála and also on the website at www.nchplanning.ie. It is clearly identified on the website and the hard copy is bound separately in order to assist in its dissemination to interested parties.

1.10 Approach to EIS

The proposed new National Paediatric Hospital Project, which is an integrated health infrastructure development, comprising 6 no. principal elements and ancillary development as set out below:

- i. A 473 no. bed new children's hospital (up to 118,113 sq.m. gross floor area) at the St. James's Hospital campus, James's Street, Dublin 8 (which contains Protected Structures);
- ii. A 53 no. bed Family Accommodation Unit (up to 4,354 sq.m. gross floor area) at the St. James's Hospital campus, James's Street, Dublin 8 (which contains Protected Structures);
- iii. A Children's Research and Innovation Centre (up to 2,971 sq.m. gross floor area) at the St. James's Hospital campus, James's Street, Dublin 8 (which contains Protected Structures);
- iv. A construction compound at the former Unilever site at Davitt Road, Drimnagh, Dublin 12;
- v. A children's hospital satellite centre at The Adelaide & Meath Hospital Dublin (Tallaght Hospital), Belgard Square North, Tallaght, Dublin 24 (up to 4,466. sq.m. gross floor area); and
- vi. A children's hospital satellite centre at Connolly Hospital campus in Blanchardstown, Dublin 15 (up to 5,093 sq.m. gross floor area).

Each of these elements operates in conjunction with each other, forming one indivisible, integrated project. This fact has been recognised by An Bord Pleanála which has advised that all the elements of the National Paediatric Hospital Project should be included in a single Strategic Infrastructure Development application.

As one single integrated development all elements are included and have been assessed as part of this EIS. For ease of reference the EIS is presented under the headings of St. James Hospital (including Davitt Road), Tallaght Hospital and Connolly Hospital being the development locations covered by the Project and also situated within three separate Local Authority administrative areas. A full assessment of the development(s) proposed on these sites is provided under the relevant heading ensuring that the information relating to each site is readily identifiable.