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**Submission to The Future Hospital Review Scrutiny Panel¹
Terms of Reference One ("TOR 1")
19 October 2020**

Introduction

TOR 1 - Review the decision-making process that was undertaken in determining the final site recommendation, with particular regard to the following:

- a. Fairness
- b. Transparency
- c. Appropriateness
- d. Overall cost, affordability and value for money

This TOR is reviewed under the above sub paragraph headings and should be read in conjunction with the background document, also submitted to the Future Hospital Review Scrutiny Panel.

Fairness

The term 'Fairness' is a subjective. It is addressed in this context in terms of the ability of the public to be engaged in the site selection process in accordance with the Planning Department's Supplementary Guidance². The Guidance lays great emphasis on the planning application demonstrating full public consultation has been undertaken across the whole project, including site selection, up to the time the full planning application is submitted in September 2021, as shown in the extracts below:

Introduction – Page 1:

"It is a matter of public interest that the process of arriving at a decision which enables the delivery of the island's new hospital is fully informed and progresses smoothly, transparently, without undue delay, and with appropriate public and clinical input."

Site election Page 5:

An objective, evidence-based, consistent and sound high-level assessment of alternative sites should be undertaken. It is also imperative that any such process is open, transparent and participatory.

Section four: key planning considerations - Page 6:

Demonstrates Community involvement

Prior to submitting a planning application, there should be communication with people, providing them with opportunity to engage and contribute to the development of proposals

¹ <https://statesassembly.gov.je/scrutiny/Pages/Review.aspx?reviewid=359>

² <https://www.gov.je/SiteCollectionDocuments/Planning%20and%20building/ID%20Supplementary%20Planning%20Guidance%20Our%20Hospital%20FINAL.pdf>, page6

for a new hospital: this should be integral to producing plans which are fit for purpose, reflect community views, and provide a sustainable vision for the future.

Given the significance of the OH project for the island, it is imperative that all members of the community, including clinicians and other health staff, are provided with opportunity to engage throughout the process of developing a new proposal for a new general hospital. This will lead to a better-informed, higher-quality outcome based on local knowledge and involvement throughout the process.

This will be a prerequisite to the submission of any planning application: the planning application should be accompanied by details setting out how the community has been engaged and has contributed to the development of the proposals.

This simply has not happened, although the Project team makes great play of the Citizen's Panel and its part in the site selection process.³

The OH Project Team, the Political Oversight Group (POG) and the Senior Civil Servants POH Panel chaired by the CEO, collectively, presumably think that everything is fine and that everyone therefore knows what is going on. The reality is exactly the opposite.

Transparency

Again, to date, there has been none, particularly regarding the site selection process prior to the publication of the OH Site Shortlisting paper on 17th July 2020⁴. The Citizen's Panel was a sham public consultation without reference to the Island Plan, or the Hospital Zone and all carried out by a consultant called "Geoff" flown-in from the UK. Bizarrely the Panel was specifically prevented from visiting potential sites. As a result, the politically hoped for 'no involvement' that was deemed to have poisoned the Future Hospital Project was achieved until late August 2020, as explained in detail in our previous submission to the Panel dated 3rd October 2020 regarding Terms of Reference 2.

Site Selection

As far as site selection is concerned, none of the above strictures within the Supplementary Planning Guidance happened. Instead this project remains in total lockdown security of any information. In making our Group assessments we have therefore had to rely on two meetings with the OH Project Team and a verbal report of a briefing given to senior nursing staff by Professor Handa on Wednesday 9th September. It was in that briefing that the difference in bed numbers between Option 1 (250 beds), the full-sized development, and Option 2 (220beds), the compromised option due to the inadequacy of the proposed site area, specifically People's Park, were revealed.

The Functional Assessment

In a conventional hospital planning process, one would expect to know what you require in a new hospital and, having come up with an outline plan, only then go out and find a suitable site. Again, that has not happened. Professor Ashok Handa, the UK surgeon employed to draw-up the functional brief (or in normal architectural parlance, the design brief), was employed for two years from

³<https://www.gov.je/SiteCollectionDocuments/Planning%20and%20building/ID%20Our%20Hospital%20Site%20Shortlisting%20Report%2020200825.pdf>

⁴<https://www.gov.je/SiteCollectionDocuments/Planning%20and%20building/ID%20Our%20Hospital%20Site%20Shortlisting%20Report%2020200825.pdf>

November 2019. In July 2020 it was announced that the functional brief would be delayed for ten weeks, with an anticipated publication date of 2nd October 2020. We are still waiting, although we now understand from the Project Team that the functional brief will now be published on 17th November 2020, to coincide with, and distract from, the States debate of the OH site choice.

Appropriateness

Again, this is a subjective term. What about the OH Project is 'fair'? What is unfair is the consistent lack of public communication between the OH Project Team and the general public, whose taxes will be used to fund the OH, as well as the current project development costs.

Despite promises made at our Group's first meeting with the Project Team and the CEO on 14th January 2020, as of this date, there is no Our Hospital website and only the very occasional media release, notably when the two site shortlisting reports were released on Friday, 17 July and Monday, 20 July 2020.

Overall Cost, Affordability and Value for Money

The declared cost of developing the OH project to date is £7 million. This sum was granted to the Project Team following the Chief Ministers paper to the States on 3rd May 2019 to get the project underway, including forming and paying the project team. A further £30 million was allocated to the RoK/FCC consortium in June 2020 to design the OH (and later, under a separate budget, to build the OH and its campus).

This £7 million presumably covers the costs of the various consultants involved. It is too early to expect accounts covering that expenditure, but if the current lack of information persists with, then the actual accounting is going to be very difficult to see, other than the Auditor General calling for it. Currently, there is no sign of that happening imminently, so it is impossible to assess any current value for money.

Summary

In our view the site selection process has been totally lacking in transparency and public consultation to the detriment of the process and the results to date.

We would be pleased to review our submission with the Panel, and we invite your comments and suggestions.

Friends of Our New Hospital

Chair – Brigadier Bruce Willing CBE

Tom Binet – Graham Bisson – Peter Funk – Jean Lelliott – Graeme Phipps