



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Spending Review 2021 – Healthcare Capital Investment in Ireland

Strategic Considerations for Future Capital Investment in Healthcare.

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December 2021

Spending Review 2021 – Overview, Aims & Objectives



Overview

- The paper reviews the policy literature on the general and healthcare specific challenges that frequently occur in the delivery of infrastructure projects.
- The paper further aids the development of the Strategic Investment Framework for Healthcare through the identification of a set of criteria that projects can be assessed against, including Patient Safety, Value for Money, Accessibility, Future Healthcare Demand and Adaptability.
- This paper analyses planned healthcare investment under NDP 2018-2027 to project how capital investment would be spent by 2027 if implemented as planned. It then evaluates this prospective expenditure in healthcare with reference to the proposed strategic investment criteria and the existing NDP objectives.

Aims and Objectives

- The paper evaluates relevant strategic documents to identify a number of criteria for the Strategic Investment Framework for Healthcare.
- The paper identifies a number of areas where prospective investment could be further aligned with strategic priorities, including care setting balance, regional balance and risk management.

Spending Review 2021 – Key Findings



Key Policy Relevant Findings

- A number of general and healthcare specific challenges associated with the delivery of infrastructure projects are identified including:
 - the need to facilitate greater ex-post review of completed large capital projects;
 - an over-focus on short term (cost & time) rather than long run (strategic) outcomes and;
 - the lack of integration of healthcare projects into the whole health system.
- Analysis of the NDP 2018 – 2027 reveals a number of areas where prospective investment could potentially be further aligned with strategic priorities including;
 - Potential over-prioritisation of acute care expenditure (70% of expenditure).
 - Possible lack of Regional Diversity of Investment (Dublin accounts for 47% of planned investment).
 - Value for Money & Risk Considerations (76% of investment has yet to take place).
 - Potential lack of alignment with demographic trends (35% of expenditure is dedicated to maternity and paediatric care).

Spending Review 2021 – Key Findings



Key Policy Relevant Findings

- **Development and Implementation of a Strategic Investment Framework:** This analysis underpins the need for the development of a Strategic Investment Framework for healthcare to ensure that future health capital funding allocations align with National (NDP) and sectoral (Sláintecare) objectives.
- **Further Development of Data and Evidence related to Healthcare Capital Investment:** From an operational perspective, detailed healthcare capital stock data and the evaluation of investment requirements by care setting and region will be required to implement the Strategic Investment Framework in practice.
- **Greater Alignment of Healthcare Investment Priorities with Health and Overall Government Strategies:** The analysis presented in this paper identifies potential issues related to the distribution of expenditure by care setting, region, and project stage. Any non-alignment of investment priorities with Sláintecare, and overall government strategies, may present challenges to the deliverability of policy objectives including the transition to Primary and Community based services.