

## **DE/2026-035 – Freedom of Information Request**

### **Request:**

Thank you for your detailed response dated [insert date of original response, e.g., 7th September 2025], regarding the capital investment and development plans for St. Patrick's College, Maghera.

I am writing to kindly request an update on the current status of the project, particularly in relation to the following points:

1. **Progress of RIBA Stage 2** – Has the Stage 2 concept design report been submitted to the Department as anticipated during the summer of 2025? If so, has the Department completed its review?
2. **Updated Timeline** – Is the March 2027 construction start date still considered accurate, or have there been any changes based on planning approval progress or capital budget availability?
3. **Planning Approval** – Has a planning application for the new school been submitted and/or approved?
4. **Steering Group Meetings** – While I understand certain documentation is exempt from disclosure, can you confirm whether the Project Steering Group continues to meet regularly, and whether any key decisions or developments have occurred since your last response?
5. **Funding Status** – Have there been any further developments regarding the allocation or confirmation of funding for the construction stage?

I appreciate the complexities involved in delivering a project of this scale and understand that timelines and plans may evolve. However, any updates you are able to provide would be very helpful.

Thank you again for your time and assistance. I look forward to your response.

### **Department Response:**

#### **ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE, MAGHERA – UPDATE**

Thank you for your email of 28 February, in which you have requested an update on the status of the St Patrick's College, Maghera major capital works project. I have addressed your queries in the order raised.

#### **Progress of RIBA Stage 2**

The position remains as previously advised. The RIBA Stage 2 submission was lodged with the Department at the end of September 2025. The Department's technical advisors review of both design and costs is ongoing and is nearing completion.

**Updated Timeline**

The position remains as previously advised. The current project programme (Revision 4.4) indicates that construction is due to commence in March 2028, however this is subject to all relevant approvals being in place and the availability of capital budget.

**Planning Approval**

The position remains as previously advised. A full planning application will be submitted as part of the RIBA Stage 3 (Developed Design) activities. The assessment of any application by a planning authority is often a lengthy process and requires input from statutory third-party consultees.

The programme will be reviewed regularly and updated throughout the lifetime of the project.  
Investment & Infrastructure Directorate

**Steering Group Meetings**

The Steering Group meetings ceased following the approval of the Business Case. This Group has been replaced by two separate meeting Groups, which are the Project Team and the Project Board.

Project Team meetings take place monthly. The membership of the Project Team deal with design development.

Project Board meetings take place quarterly and the membership of the Project Board address more strategic issues for example ensuring that the project meets its objectives and delivers the projected benefits.

**Funding Status**

The position remains as previously advised, in that the project will continue to progress through the design stages to pre-construction stage; however, the project can only proceed to construction when there is available budget.

I hope you find this information helpful.