



Exemplar Design Guidance for

# **24 Bed Acute Care Standard Inpatient Ward Block**

**Standardisation of Healthcare Accommodation.**

July 2025

Project Information

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| Task        | Initials | Signature       | Date     |
|-------------|----------|-----------------|----------|
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|     |                                                             |          |          |
|     |                                                             |          |          |





## Foreword

In collaboration with key Health Service Executive (HSE) stakeholders, the Office of the National Director for HSE Capital & Estates is actively working on the standardisation of various types of healthcare accommodation.

The initiative will develop centrally approved briefing and exemplar design guidance to support project teams nationwide. The objective is to establish a consistent and standardised approach across all projects, ensuring alignment with best practices and established standards.

The development of exemplar design guidance will assist future projects by providing a common set of information, which will enhance production efficiency. By adopting this approach, projects will benefit from improved quality, cost, and schedule certainty while leveraging opportunities in Modern Methods of Construction (MMC). These methods may include the production of en-suite pods, precast structural elements, pre-determined mechanical, electrical, and plumbing (MEP) service solutions, standardised structural components, and increased use of offsite prefabricated assemblies.

The appointed design team, led by Scott Tallon Walker Architects, has prepared this report for a model brief and design guidance for a 24-bed Acute Care Standard Inpatient Ward Block. This design will serve as a common starting point for future HSE developments nationwide.

The Schedule of Accommodation and Exemplar Design Information are based on series of defined levels of care, patient risk grades and key design parameters—all of which serve as a reference for those using this guidance.

Office of the National Director for HSE Capital & Estates



# Executive Summary



STW - Grafton Way Hospital.

As a result of a Health Service Executive initiative to develop a standardised set of exemplar design guidance documents for healthcare accommodation, an overarching working group titled “Standardising Healthcare Accommodation” was established.

This working group has engaged with the consultant Design Team to establish an exemplar design and schedule of accommodation for a 24 Bed Acute Care Standard Inpatient Ward Block in line with the assumptions outlined in this report. This document relates to standard ward accommodation only with provision for bariatric and isolation rooms.

The aim of this approach is to ensure a consistency of quality across all similar schemes while also providing benchmarks against cost and programme. The design reflects an ambition to create a high quality environment for patients, staff and visitors that reflects the core values of the HSE.

We have developed the schedule of accommodation (SoA) from an outline brief supplied by the HSE, which we have then tested against current Building Regulation Technical Guidance and relevant HBN/ HTM Guidance. The SoA has been reviewed by the HSE working group and their comments incorporated.

Efforts have been made to standardise room sizes and layouts and Designing for Modern Methods of Construction have been considered in the engineering strategies and building grid/ module. There has been a focus on life cycle analysis and the circular economy in areas such as the preferred structural frame, while also considering environmental controls and the incorporation of mixed mode ventilation systems.

Our approach to Fire Safety design has been to ensure full compliance with HTM 05-02: Firecode Guidance in support of functional provision (Fire safety in the design of healthcare premises) and the current TGD Part B.

We have taken an approach that allows for different configurations of modular blocks of accommodation that can be developed for different sites and that allows flexibility for varying numbers of beds. However, it is understood that all projects will be somewhat unique, and the consequent ability to apply the Guidance will vary based upon project specific requirements, site constraints, and existing building geometry limitations.

Scott Tallon Walker Architects.



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STW - The Rock Wing, Mater Misericordiae University Hospital.

# 01

## The Brief

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# The Brief

## 1.1 Background

**The Programme for Government has committed to increase bed capacity by between 4,000 and 4,500 new and refurbished inpatient hospital beds across the country, as well as increase ICU bed capacity by at least a further 100 beds. This is supported by the Acute Hospital Inpatient Bed Capacity Expansion Plan 2024-2031, which notes that Government is setting out on the largest planned expansion of public acute hospital inpatient capacity in decades. This Plan is in line with Department of Health's Strategic Investment Framework.**

In order to support the above priority and promote a common design approach for various Healthcare accommodation types, HSE Capital & Estates have set up an overarching working group, titled “Standardising Healthcare Accommodation” to create a National standardised approach. The aim is to develop a library of standardised Healthcare Accommodation Exemplar Design solutions to maximise the benefits of efficiency and shared understanding of best practice. This report has been prepared to provide exemplar design guidance for others to adopt and develop for a **24-Bed Acute Hospital Inpatient Ward Block**.

### Key Assumptions

In order to prepare and complete a standardised Exemplar Design for a 24-Bed Acute Hospital Inpatient Ward Block, a number of assumptions were required from the outset to form part of the Design Team's brief. For this exercise, the Design Team (DT) were instructed to proceed on the basis that the Ward Block is connected to a live existing Hospital accommodation and will consist of 96no Inpatient Acute Beds ie 24-beds per floor, over 4 Floors (see 24 bed justification below).

The Exemplar Design assumes that support services are already in existence and are centralised to the main live hospital campus. The Exemplar Design further assumes that the upgrade of campus infrastructure does not form part of the Standard Ward Block accommodation scope. The Design Team in the following report have further expanded and developed upon these assumptions. Central to the above is the need to state from the outset the HSE models of care and operational policies which are summarised below.



### Operational Policies

Central to the design of Healthcare Facilities are defined end user Operational Policies and these are required to be known from the outset. For this Exemplar Design exercise, the HSE working group directed the DT to proceed on the basis that the Exemplar Design ward block is to be located on a live hospital campus. As such, the DT progressed their design on the working assumption they could avail of the operational policies listed below as being in place and capable of being extended to support this new accommodation. Where this is not possible or there are constraints on the list below, this will need to be addressed and developed accordingly during subsequent design stages.

Typical Operational policies influencing ward block design layouts include:

- Infection Prevention & Control.
- General Services – Security, Waste, Portering.
- Catering.
- Central Supplies.
- Household.
- FM.
- Clinical Engineering.
- Occupational Health.
- Physiotherapy.
- Medical Records.
- Diagnostic Imaging/Medical Illustration.
- Pathology.
- Laboratory.
- Pharmacy.
- Information Technology.
- Hospital Sterile Supplies.

# The Brief

## 1.1 Background

### Model of Care

The overarching aims of any model of care is to ensure that all patients have a better patient experience with improved communication receiving safe, quality care with timely diagnosis and the correct treatment delivered in an appropriate environment.

The standardised Exemplar Design aims to provide an environment that will help provide the highest standards of treatment and care to patients and their families, in accordance with the eight basic principles:

- Access
- Dignity and respect
- Safe and effective services
- Communication and information
- Participation
- Privacy
- Improving health
- Accountability

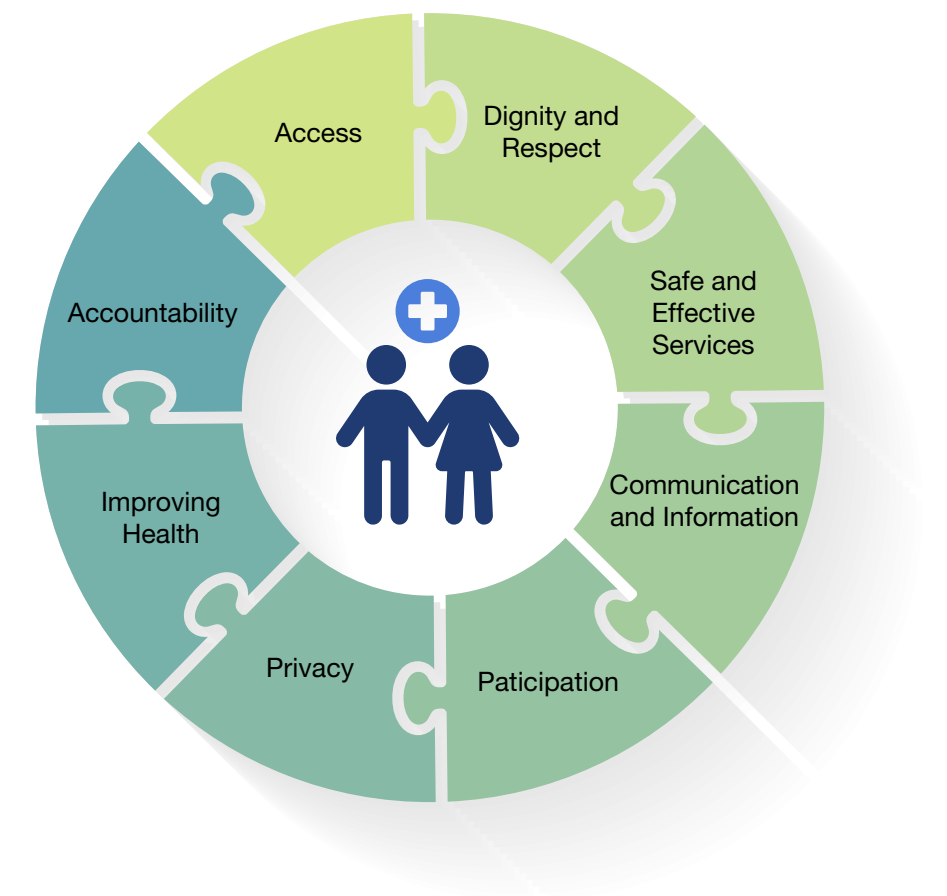
A good treatment environment can increase the wellbeing of patients and has also been shown to improve treatment results. The basic principles underlying the type of accommodation envisaged not only considers best practice in terms of National Standards and HBN /HTM Guidance in terms of single rooms, but also optimises workflows and adjacencies in terms of staff workflows, service user flow, goods / consumables flow in and waste flow out in the overall functionality and design layout. The standardised Exemplar Design for a 24 bed ward offers enhanced ward facilities, which optimises patient flow processes. This will ensure that hospitals can maintain high standards of care, reduce waiting times where possible and support the broader national and regional healthcare objectives.

The Department of Health's tiered arrangement of the acute hospital system designates four generic hospital models and within the Hospital Models framework, there is a clear delineation for critical care. For example, a Model 2 Hospital does not have a critical care service, whereas a Model 3 or Model 4 Hospital does have such a service. The Design Team in the following report have separately developed upon the standards employed for Levels of Care, Medical Location Group, Patient Risk Grade and Patient Dependency.

On the basis that the standardised Exemplar Design for a 24-bed Acute Hospital Inpatient Ward Block is for 'Model 4' Hospital, connected to a live existing Hospital, the following assumptions around patient groups and profile have been made, which informed the design:

- Patients whose needs can be met through normal ward care in an acute hospital - ( Level 0 Care Ventilation per HTM 03-01).
- Patients at risk of their condition deteriorating or recently relocated from higher levels of care whose needs can be met through normal ward care with additional advice and support from the critical care team. (Level 1 Care Ventilation per HTM 03-01).
- It is assumed that patients will generally not be connected to medical equipment over 24-hour periods. However, medical monitoring or medical test equipment may be used and connected externally to the patient's body for a short or intermittent time.
- Patients will include independent patients, which are independent if their mobility is not impaired in anyway and they are able to physically leave the premises without staff assistance, or they experience some mobility impairment and rely on another person to offer minimal assistance. This would include being sufficiently able to negotiate stairs unaided or with minimal assistance, as well as being able to comprehend the emergency wayfinding signage around the facility.

- The ward will also accommodate some dependent patients which are all other patients except those classified as "independent" or "very high dependency".
- The people we care for, who require transmission-based precautions or for Infection prevention and control reasons, should be accommodated in a single room with en suite facilities





# The Brief

## 1.1 Background

### 24 Bed Justification

At the outset of the Standardised Acute Inpatient Ward Exemplar Design and layout development, the HSE Working Group advised the DT that the number of Inpatient Bedrooms could be best managed in cohorts of 8 no. bedroom clusters, which was the preference from a workforce planning viewpoint. Following various option studies, a 24-bed solution was considered to provide greatest flexibility as this configuration gives management an opportunity to manage:

- Staff-to-patient ratios when determining the number of single rooms per ward.
- The distance needed to travel to access resources/supports etc.
- The design of the ward.
- The number of beds and location of staff bases and staff touchdown areas endeavoured to ensure the safety of patients so that patients can be easily observed and cared for.

The staff-to-patient ratio is a service decision and function at any given time. The 24-bed number gives flexibility depending on needs on any given day. This configuration gives management and staff an opportunity to manage their staff-to-patient ratios in accordance with the Framework. This also aligns with a key recommendation from the Framework for Safe Nurse Staffing and Skill Mix in General and Specialist Medical and Surgical Care Settings in Acute Hospitals in Ireland in 2018, which advised that patients had better outcomes when nurse patient ratio was considered.

### Participants to this process

Include multidisciplinary professionals with specialist clinical and design knowledge, who have worked closely with the appointed Design Team to establish a clear set of requirements that inform the Exemplar Design. The Acute Hospital Ward Working Group include the following areas of HSE Clinical and Technical expertise:

- AMRIC – Josephine Galway, Therese Dalchan, Prof Clare Rock, Barbara Slevin
- Nurse Planning – Claire Banahan, Mary Coen
- Fire – Aidan O'Connor
- Energy Efficient Design – Vincent Brennan
- Architecture – Eleanor Masterson, Eilish O Connor , Terry Kearney
- Mechanical & Electrical –Brendan Colreavy, Damien Clarke
- Health & Safety & Infrastructural Risk – Deirdre Groarke
- Civil & Structural – Richard Miles
- Equipping – Sharon Brown
- Quality & Standards – Brendan Reddington
- Quantity Surveying – Colin Cleary



# The Brief

## 1.2 Project Assumptions

### Level of Care.

As per HTM 03-01 will be as follows:

- Level 0 Care - Patients whose needs can be met through normal ward care in an acute hospital.
- Level 1 Care - Patients at risk of their condition deteriorating, or recently relocated from higher levels of care, whose needs can be met through normal ward care with additional advice and support from the critical care team.

### Medical Location Group.

Shall be Group 1 for all medical locations and as follows:

- Medical Location where discontinuity of the electrical supply does not represent a threat to the safety of the patient and applied parts are intended to be used:
  - Externally; or
  - Invasively to any part of the body, except where Group 2 applies.

### Patient Dependency.

Should cater for the following patient type, with reference to Section 2.19 of HTM 05-02:

- 'Independent' & 'Dependant' \*
- The Ward Block is not designed to cater for 'Very High Dependency Patients' i.e. no intensive care, theatres, where any movement or evacuation of patients may be life threatening.

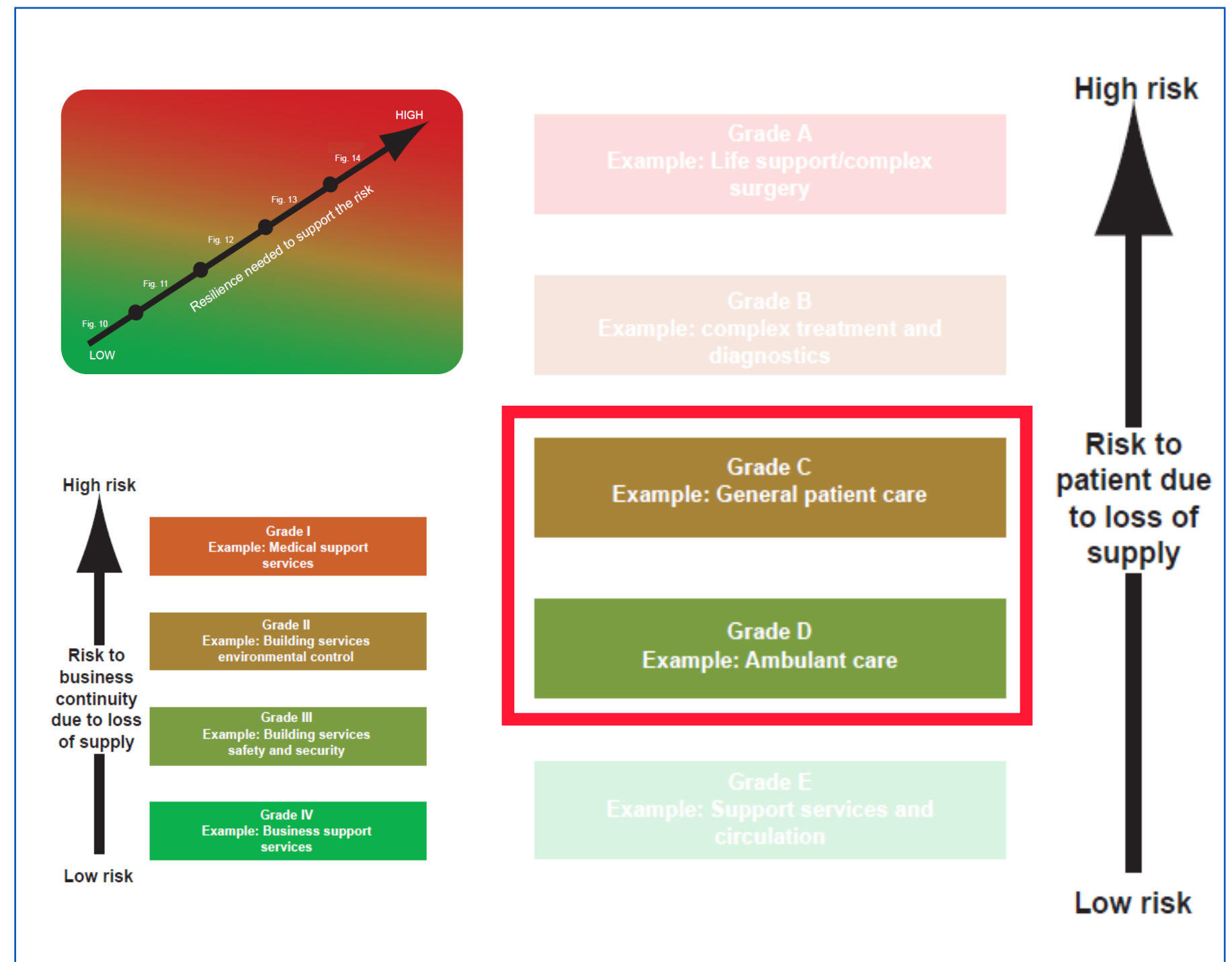
\* Allowance should be made for bariatric patients.

### Patient Risk Grade as per HTM06.

As per HTM 06, Patient Risk Grade shall be C and D.

### Patient Safety.

More studies are highlighting the risks from water and wastewater to patient safety, and the value of water-free strategies in reducing infection rates. As a result, a water light approach is under review with the HSE and may be incorporated in future revisions of this Design Guide.



Patient Grade Risk



# The Brief

## 1.2 Project Assumptions

### Design

1. Design is based on a stand alone multi-storey ward block with physical connections to adjoining hospital buildings.
2. No basement was considered (selected site topography will determine if basement or partial basement is applicable).
3. Ward floor to start at level 01 with ground floor accommodation left open to individual project needs.
4. Interstitial bedroom ensuites are the preferred option. See options appraisal matrix in Section 2.8. As a result, bed and trunking locations are not in the same orientation in each room.
5. Radiological protection required to adjoining room walls where beds are back to back (to shield mobile X-ray's in the adjacent room).
6. 2no. isolation rooms with PPVL lobby & ensuite to be accommodated on each 24 bed ward.
7. 2no. bariatric rooms to be accommodated on each 24 bed ward. Built in hoist required for bariatric room.
8. Flexible provision for family waiting, meeting and overnight stay to be allowed for.
9. Flexible provision for staff meeting rooms and office space to be allowed for.
10. Ward Pantry to be HACCP compliant and require a catering WC. Catering changing room located in main hospital. Main Production Kitchen assumed to be elsewhere in the hospital
11. 1no. changing places toilet per 96 bed - to be accommodated somewhere in the building
12. Adequate storage requirements to be provided.
13. Staff changing to be accommodated off ward in adjoining hospital
14. HBN Guidance to be the base starting point for accommodation.
15. All surfaces and detail junctions should be designed and specified to be easily cleaned.
16. Fire Safety Design to be fully code compliant - HBN and Irish Building Regulations (TGD B)

### Mechanical, Electrical & Public Health design

1. Roof level plantroom to cater for air handling plant etc.
2. Ground level plantroom for generators etc.
3. Instances of overheating in naturally ventilated inpatient accommodation is on the increase. Furthermore, the need to manage aspergillus risk associated with future adjacent construction activity must also be considered. As such, a mixed mode ventilation strategy is proposed for all standard patient bedrooms with the following options considered:
  - Central ventilation plant
  - Local ventilation plant
4. Inpatient bedrooms ventilation shall achieve a minimum 4 ACPH.
5. Isolation suites should be PPVL type (refer to HBN 04-01 Supplement 1). Arrangement of isolation rooms should be stacked vertically.
6. Dedicated MA4 and VAC plant required for standard ward block.
7. High flow Oxygen points to be allowed for on one floor only.
8. RO Water not required.
9. A standard vertical bedhead trunking has been allowed for with combined gas and power/ data.
10. Standard Ward block to be sprinklered to meet growing demand from local Fire Authorities.
11. Responsive lighting, day-light linked lighting and circadian lighting to be considered.
12. ICT Infrastructure to be considered.

### EED and Modelling

1. The HSE is in the process of updating its EED Guidance Document, current EED guidance shall be used in the meantime.
2. Energy Balance Model has not been undertaken as part of this phase of the report.
3. Modelling of most commonly occurring rooms has been undertaken to assess the thermal performance characteristics for different orientation, layouts, facade.

### Lift Strategy

1. **Bed Transfer and Evacuation Lift**
  - Must comply with HTM 08-02.
  - 1no. required at each end.
  - One or both to be capable of bariatric transfer
  - (Minimum 1800x2700mm).
2. **Fire Fighting Lift (Combined with Bed Lift)**
  - 1no. required at either end.
  - Rule is that hose needs to reach 45m (60m if sprinklered) from FF riser / vent shaft.
  - Noted that separate Fire/ Bed lift is not explicitly noted in the regulations, however this has arisen on previous projects.
  - When not used for fire-fighting activities, a firefighters lift may be used as a general passenger lift by the occupants of the building ( in compliance with HTM 08-02 ).
  - Fire fighting lifts must be lobbied.
3. **FM Lift - Combined clean & dirty**
  - Must comply with HTM 08-02.
  - 1no. Required, cannot be used as a Firefighting lift and requires a lobby.
  - (Minimum 1800x2700mm).
4. **Public Lift**
  - Must comply with HTM 08-02.
  - Can be combined with bed lift as efficient to have a duplex arrangement at one end.
  - In healthcare buildings with four to eight storeys, at least four general passenger lifts of rated capacity 1275kg should be installed - This is to be considered if going higher than this design.

# The Brief

## 1.2 Project Assumptions

### Fire

1. Fire Safety Design to be fully code compliant - HBN and Irish Building Regulations (TGD B)
2. HTM 05-02 - 4no. Compartments required for each ward as top floor of building assumed to be over 12m in height.
3. To achieve compartments sizes between 500 and 350msq in size, building must be sprinklered.

### Structural

1. Structural Design allows ward stacking (i.e. multi-level ward up to 96-bed) with podium slab potential to cater for base level ward with a different structural configuration.

### Costs

1. Cost are based on a range of low/ medium/ high and are subject to a more detailed analysis of inflation, abnormal and site infrastructure costs. Refer to Section 06 - Cost Report.

### Campus Infrastructure

1. Upgrading of campus infrastructure does not form part of standard ward block accommodation scope.
2. Standard ward block will have dedicated primary electrical plant of N+1 configuration.
3. Separate Central Utilities Building (CUB) for primary MV electrical plant (transformers, MV switchgear, generators and oil storage) considered. For this option LV switchgear shall be integral to the building.
4. Cast Resin transformers shall not be considered.
5. Oil storage for generators (and back up oil boilers where applicable) shall be at least 72 hours.
6. Existing host hospital O2 VIE shall be used/upgraded for the standard ward block.
7. The scope of this exercise does not take into account traffic and transport considerations

### Status of this Report / Drawings

1. The design is based on current guidance and may be subject to future revision as policy or regulatory requirements change.
2. The design has been issued and commented on by a specific HSE Working Group, established for this purpose. Refer to Page 9.
3. The design of the external envelope and roof has not been considered in detail and is outside the scope of this exercise.
4. The design of the foundations has not been considered in detail and is outside the scope of this exercise.
5. Do not scale from this drawing.
6. Drawing owner shall be notified in writing of any discrepancies.
7. Drawings shall be read in conjunction with all other drawings, specifications and equipment schedules.
8. Drawing information is not suitable for fabrication or installation.

**A key aim of this Exemplar Design is to drive cost efficiency and certainty through standardisation.**



STW - Rock Wing - Mater Misericordiae University Hospital



# The Brief

## 1.3 Room Characteristics

**NOTE:** A water light approach is under review with the HSE and may be incorporated in future revisions of this Design Guide. This may impact the location and provision of Clinical Hand Wash Basins in various locations.

| KEY ROOM CHARACTERISTICS                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Room Type                                | Room Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Key Characteristics                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Standard Bedroom</b>                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A private room focused on patient safety, comfort, and clinical efficiency, featuring a bed, clinical space, sitting/ desk area, and hygiene station.</li> <li>Dedicated en-suite with shower provided for each bedroom.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Room divided into clinical/ patient/ visitor zones.</li> <li>Obstruction-free bed area aligned with HBN requirements.</li> <li>Priority given to line of sight from bed head to en-suite door. This is to allow for ease in identifying the location of the en-suite and unobstructed travel to it - understanding that lockers, equipment etc may be at the head of the bed and obscure vision or movement.</li> <li>With interstitial en-suites this results in a handed arrangement for the beds.</li> <li>Large glazed sliding door to corridor allowing for visibility in and out of room and natural light penetration to corridor - sliding doors to be manually operated.</li> <li>Interstitial blinds to be fitted in sliding doors for privacy and dignity of patient - with override controls on the corridor side.</li> <li>Built in modular storage to allow for personal storage, secure storage and space for personal artefacts - family photos, cards etc.</li> <li>Window seat and desk indicated in front of window.</li> <li>Detailing to be in line with infection prevention control requirements.</li> <li>Enhanced control over environmental conditions to suit individual needs.</li> <li>Lighting options, to be adaptable for various requirements such as reading, examination, and socialising.</li> <li>Entertainment system with adequate controls.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Standard En-suite</b>                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wet room type arrangement (no shower tray) allowing for universal access and assistance.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Every other en-suite is to be an assisted WC/ Shower room.</li> <li>Assistance is provide via an outward opening half door leaf.</li> <li>Suitable falls to gullies, shower zone away from door and drain away from where patient stands.</li> <li>No natural light or ventilation - mechanical ventilation only.</li> <li>Location and design of all FFE to be compliant with HBN and National Building Regulation Guidance.</li> <li>Accessible services behind IPS panels.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Breakout Space</b>                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A socialisation area with comfortable seating for patients and visitors, designed to foster interaction and relaxation.</li> </ul>                                                                                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comfortable, naturally lit area with appropriate acoustics.</li> <li>To be easily located by patients and visitors.</li> <li>Accessible charging points and potential for tv.</li> <li>External views, calming environment, access to reading materials/light refreshments.</li> <li>Option of an enclosed room with glass screen/ door (Acoustic privacy) or an area open to the corridor and more public.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Staff Base</b>                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The central communication and administration point for staff related to patient care.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enclosed area with appropriate height, balancing visibility out with privacy for staff work.</li> <li>Provision of adequate work space for staff administrative tasks.</li> <li>Adequate storage to be provided.</li> <li>Clearly identifiable staff area.</li> <li>Direct view of doors to adjacent Clean Utility/ Pharmacy.</li> <li>Bases located at either end of the ward also provide a point of welcome/ security onto the ward.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Multidisciplinary Team Room (MDT)</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A dedicated space for multidisciplinary team meetings, where professionals from different specialities collaborate to discuss and plan patient care, particularly for complex cases.</li> </ul>                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Large, centrally located meeting area located on each ward floor.</li> <li>Flexible seating arrangements to accommodate traditional round table meetings or seminar type presentations.</li> <li>Glazed screens to provide a sense of openness - views out to ward.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Staff Rest</b>                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welfare and rest area within the ward for staff use, including essential amenities.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Natural light and ventilation.</li> <li>Located to the edge of the Ward away from main activity and adjacent to a vertical circulation core.</li> <li>Long views where possible.</li> <li>Domestic kitchen type environment - washing, prep, storage, teat/coffee etc.</li> <li>Hydration station.</li> <li>Mix of bar stool and table seating arrangements.</li> <li>Personal lockers to be located in the room or just outside.</li> <li>Bright, calm environment for staff to talk and unwind.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

# The Brief

## 1.3 Room Characteristics

| KEY ROOM CHARACTERISTICS            |                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Room Type                           | Room Description                                                                                                                                                                                | Key Characteristics                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Clean Utility Room</b>           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A room where drugs and lotions may be stored and prepared, a supply of clean and sterile supplies may be held and dressing trolleys prepared.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clinical hand-hygiene facilities incorporated.</li> <li>Adequate storage for sterile supplies equipment and other clean supplies to keep supplies off the floor with sufficient space under the lowest shelf to permit cleaning the floor underneath.</li> <li>Worktop area to enable aseptic preparation to be carried out (for example, preparation of intravenous infusion).</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Dirty Utility Room</b>           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The room for collection and temporary storage of dirty linen and waste.</li> </ul>                                                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sluice for disposing of body fluids and patients' wash-water; separate sink for cleaning equipment.</li> <li>Cleaning items of equipment.</li> <li>Testing urine.</li> <li>The disposal of body fluids including water contaminated with body fluids, exudate etc.</li> <li>The decontamination of commodes.</li> <li>Temporarily holding items requiring reprocessing.</li> <li>Clinical washing of hands after activity in the dirty utility room.</li> <li>Location of CHWB &amp; hand hygiene as per WHO- 5 'Moments for Hand Hygiene'.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Cleaners Store</b>               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Room to deliver day-to-day cleaning services for a defined area.</li> </ul>                                                                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cleaning materials and equipment in daily use should be stored in this room.</li> <li>Provision of a sink and slop-hopper or janitorial unit as well as a wash-hand .</li> <li>Basin with unrestricted access.</li> <li>Space for mops, buckets, a vacuum cleaner, scrubbing/polishing machine (for hard floors) and other appropriate cleaning equipment.</li> <li>Location of CHWB &amp; hand hygiene as per WHO- 5 'Moments for Hand Hygiene'.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Stores</b>                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An arrangement of different rooms to separate and store different equipment, supplies, materials and waste.</li> </ul>                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Centrally located General Store for bulk items, PPE etc.</li> <li>Centrally located Equipment store dedicated for equipment.</li> <li>FM store, adjacent to FM lift for supplies, included replacement mattresses.</li> <li>Waste Disposal Hold - zone for segregated wheeled bins for healthcare waste, including sharps, and used linen. Located adjacent to FM lift for ease of removal. Area should be easy to clean.</li> <li>Dedicated large linen store for clean linen located away from waste storage.</li> <li>Small linen store for day to day supplies.</li> <li>Equipment bays at either end of Ward for parking equipment off the circulation zone.</li> </ul>                                                                                  |
| <b>Pantry</b>                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A specialized space on the ward floor, designed for the preparation and reheating of meals for patients or staff.</li> </ul>                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Includes either a convection oven or a regenerative oven for cooking or reheating meals.</li> <li>Other appliances like microwaves, toasters, or even a small hot plate might be included.</li> <li>Separate zone for clean and dirty activities.</li> <li>Dry storage.</li> <li>Refrigeration, freezer and ice making provision.</li> <li>A countertop or table surface for food preparation, meal assembly, and warming up food.</li> <li>Sink: for cleaning utensils and preparing food.</li> <li>Dishwasher for cleaning.</li> <li>Waste Disposal: A trash can or disposal system for food waste.</li> <li>Safety Features: appropriate fire protection, ventilation, and hygiene measures would be essential.</li> <li>Single point of entry.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Point-of-care-testing (POCT)</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A dedicated room for analysis equipment, located on the ward and close to the patient.</li> </ul>                                                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A small laboratory type room with equipment such as:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- reagent-impregnated strips for urine or blood;</li> <li>- single test equipment for glucose or cholesterol;</li> <li>- fully automated instruments such as blood glucose monitoring systems and blood gas/critical care analysers.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Lab benching to perimeter and adequate storage.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |



# The Brief

## 1.4 Room Schedule

### Development of the Room Schedule.

The HSE provided an initial schedule of rooms for an acute care standard inpatient ward block based on a number of benchmark projects and early feedback from the working group.

Scott Tallon Walker Architects then tested this schedule against HBN Guidance - specifically HBN 04-01.

Through a series of workshops and reviews with the HSE Working Group, the schedule was further developed.

A final Schedule of Accommodation was approved by the HSE Working Group in February 2025 and is presented below.

The areas allocated in the Schedule of Accommodation (SoA), demonstrate the net floor areas of rooms and do not includes circulation and service zones. This SoA also takes into account the Project Assumptions listed in Section 1.2.

### Adaptability:

A key driver for the design of the 24 Bed Acute Standard Inpatient Ward Block is the need for flexibility. This is to allow the design to adapt to different site conditions. As a result, the Design Team have progressed the design as a series of modules that can be configured into 'L' and 'T' shapes, where the site does not allow for the straight bar option. Refer to Section 2.4 for more detail.

The different configurations follow the same principles and general arrangement of rooms but they present opportunities for some additional space as the layout turns the corner. This can be seen in the General Arrangement Plans for each option.

### Planning Grid:

The design is based on a standard 300/600/1200 planning module for efficient space planning and the incorporation of standardised modular building components.

Generally a wide span 10.8M x 7.8M structural grid is applied - refer to Chapter 04 - Section 4.4. This allows for flexibility on the ground floor to accommodate alternative accommodation.

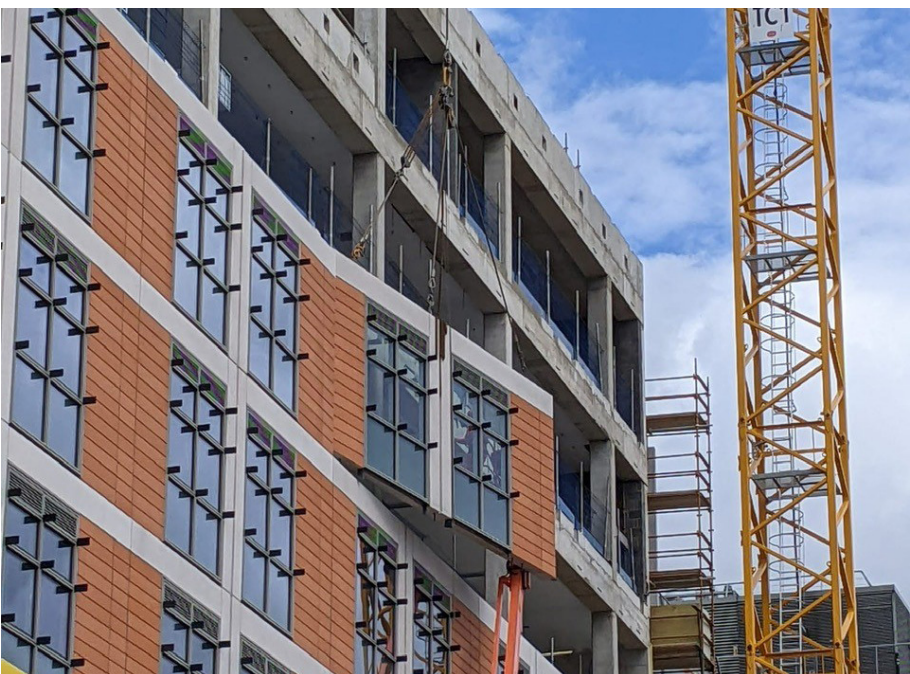
The structure also allows for a multi level stacking arrangement.

### Client and User Engagement

From the outset the HSE brought together an expert panel of healthcare practitioners currently working in the HSE to assist in the development of the brief and accommodation schedule. This group became the Working Group for this project - Refer to Section 1.5

An early 'draft' report was circulated in Jan 2025 for wider comment and these comments have been reviewed and taken on board where appropriate.

This final report is the culmination of expert analysis and wider feedback from HSE staff and consultants.



**The economical planning grid and modular approach allows for standardisation of components and offsite design for manufacturing and assembly (DFMA)**

| INITIAL HSE ROOM SCHEDULE |                                    |           |     |       |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------|-----|-------|
| Schedule of Accommodation |                                    | Size (m2) | QTY | Total |
| Bedroom                   | Single Bedroom                     | 19        | 22  | 418   |
|                           | Isolation Room                     | 19        | 2   | 38    |
|                           | Isolation Lobby                    | 6         | 2   | 12    |
| Ensuite                   | Ensuite                            | 5.1       | 22  | 112.2 |
|                           | Bariatric Ensuite                  | 11        | 1   | 11    |
|                           | Independent Access Ensuite         | 8         | 1   | 8     |
| Support Accommodation     | Shower Room (assisted)             | 8         | 1   | 8     |
|                           | Bathroom Assisted                  | 15        | 1   | 15    |
|                           | Treatment Room                     | 16        | 1   | 16    |
|                           | Interview Room                     | 8         | 1   | 8     |
|                           | Nurse Base/ Reception              | 14.9      | 2   | 29.8  |
|                           | Touchdown Base                     | 0.4       | 4   | 1.6   |
|                           | Seminar Room                       | 20        | 1   | 20    |
|                           | Point of Care Testing Room         | 8         | 1   | 8     |
|                           | Office/ Meeting Room               | 16        | 1   | 16    |
|                           | Single Person Office (CMM3)        | 9         | 1   | 9     |
| Storage                   | Dirty Utility                      | 16        | 2   | 32    |
|                           | Clean Utility                      | 15        | 2   | 30    |
|                           | Linen Store                        | 5         | 2   | 10    |
|                           | Cleaners Room                      | 8         | 1   | 8     |
|                           | General Store                      | 12        | 1   | 12    |
|                           | Clinical Equipment Store           | 12        | 1   | 12    |
|                           | Waste disposal hold                | 7.5       | 1   | 7.5   |
|                           | Equipment Bays                     | 6.6       | 1   | 6.6   |
| Public                    | Breakout Space/ Discharge/ waiting | 13.5      | 2   | 27    |
|                           | Wc public assisted                 | 4.5       | 1   | 4.5   |
|                           | Wc public (semi ambulant)          | 2.5       | 1   | 2.5   |
| Catering                  | Ward Pantry                        | 12        | 1   | 12    |
|                           | Regeneration Room                  | 2         | 1   | 2     |
|                           | Catering WC                        | 2.5       | 1   | 2.5   |
|                           | Catering Changing Room             | 2         | 1   | 2     |
| Staff                     | WC Staff                           | 2.6       | 2   | 5.2   |
|                           | Staff Rest                         | 18        | 1   | 18    |
|                           | Locker Bay (12)                    | 1.2       | 1   | 1.2   |
|                           | Soft Space (to be defined locally) | 12        | 1   | 12    |
|                           | Changing places Toilet             | 12.6      | 1   | 12.6  |
| Total                     |                                    |           |     | 950.2 |

Note:

Single Bedrooms - include 1 Bariatric Room and 1 Independent Access Changing Places Toilet ( 1 Toilet required per 96 beds ).

The Brief

1.4 Room Schedule

|                        |                                                   | FINAL APPROVED ROOM SCHEDULE |     |                 |                            |                          |                     |                          |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----|-----------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Room name / function   |                                                   | Size (m2)                    | QTY | Total area (m2) | Does it match the min. HBN | Room listed in HBN 04-01 | Included in HSE SoA | Addition / Same as HBN's |
| Bedroom                | Single Bedroom                                    | 19                           | 20  | 380             | Y                          | Y                        | Y                   | S                        |
|                        | Isolation Room                                    | 19.9                         | 2   | 39.8            | n/a                        | N                        | Y                   | A                        |
|                        | Bariatric Room                                    | 20.5                         | 2   | 41              | n/a                        | N                        | Y                   | A                        |
|                        | Isolation Lobby                                   | 6.7                          | 2   | 13.4            | Y                          | Y                        | Y                   | S                        |
| Ensuite                | Ensuite                                           | 5.1                          | 20  | 102             | Y                          | Y                        | Y                   | S                        |
|                        | Bariatric Ensuite                                 | 11                           | 2   | 22              | n/a                        | N                        | Y                   | A                        |
|                        | Independent Access Ensuite                        | 5.4                          | 2   | 10.8            | n/a                        | N                        | Y                   | A                        |
| Support Accommodation  | Interview Room                                    | 11                           | 1   | 11              | Y                          | Y                        | Y                   | S                        |
|                        | Staff Base / Reception                            | 16.6                         | 3   | 49.8            | N                          | N                        | Y                   | A                        |
|                        | Touchdown Base                                    | 2                            | 1   | 2               | N                          | Y                        | Y                   | S                        |
|                        | Seminar Room / MDT                                | 31.6                         | 1   | 31.6            | N                          | Y                        | Y                   | S                        |
|                        | Point of Care Testing Room                        | 8.1                          | 1   | 8.1             | n/a                        | N                        | Y                   | A                        |
|                        | Office/ Meeting Room                              | 22                           | 1   | 22              | Y                          | Y                        | Y                   | S                        |
|                        | Single Person Office (CMM3)                       | 10.3                         | 1   | 10.3            | n/a                        | N                        | Y                   | A                        |
|                        |                                                   |                              |     |                 |                            |                          |                     |                          |
| Storage                | Dirty Utility                                     | 23.2                         | 2   | 46.4            | Y                          | Y                        | Y                   | S                        |
|                        | Clean Utility / Medicine Store & Preparation Room | 17.5                         | 2   | 35              | Y                          | Y                        | Y                   | S                        |
|                        | Linen Store                                       | 6.1                          | 2   | 12.2            | n/a                        | Y                        | Y                   | A                        |
|                        | Cleaners Room & Cleaners Store                    | 10                           | 1   | 10              | Y                          | Y                        | Y                   | S                        |
|                        | General Store                                     | 15.3                         | 1   | 15.3            | n/a                        | Y                        | Y                   | A                        |
|                        | Clinical Equipment Store                          | 15.3                         | 1   | 15.3            | n/a                        | Y                        | Y                   | A                        |
|                        | FM Store                                          | 11.7                         | 1   | 11.7            | n/a                        | N                        | N                   | A                        |
|                        | Waste disposal hold                               | 14                           | 1   | 14              | Y                          | Y                        | Y                   | S                        |
|                        | Equipment Bays                                    | 3.5                          | 4   | 14              | Y                          |                          | Y                   |                          |
|                        | Resus Equipment                                   |                              |     |                 |                            | Y                        | Y                   | S                        |
|                        | Food trolley                                      |                              |     |                 |                            | Y                        | Y                   | S                        |
|                        | Mobile hoist                                      |                              |     |                 |                            | Y                        | Y                   | S                        |
| Patients / Public      | Breakout Space                                    | 16                           | 2   | 32              | Y                          | Y                        | Y                   | S                        |
|                        | Waiting / Discharge Area                          | 22                           | 1   | 22              | Y                          | Y                        | Y                   | S                        |
|                        |                                                   |                              |     |                 |                            |                          |                     |                          |
|                        | WC Public Accessible                              | 5                            | 2   | 10              | Y                          | Y                        | Y                   | S                        |
| Catering               | WC Public (semi ambulant)                         | 2.7                          | 2   | 5.4             | Y                          | Y                        | Y                   | S                        |
|                        | Ward Pantry                                       | 12.5                         | 1   | 12.5            | Y                          | Y                        | Y                   | S                        |
|                        | Regeneration Room                                 | 2                            | 1   | 2               | n/a                        | N                        | Y                   | A                        |
|                        | WC Catering                                       | 2.6                          | 1   | 2.6             | n/a                        | N                        | Y                   | A                        |
| Staff                  | Separate Tea Station                              | 2                            | 1   | 2               | n/a                        | N                        | N                   | A                        |
|                        | WC Staff                                          | 2.6                          | 2   | 5.2             | Y                          | Y                        | Y                   | S                        |
|                        | Staff Rest                                        | 21                           | 1   | 21              | Y                          | Y                        | Y                   | S                        |
|                        | Locker Bay (12)                                   | 1.2                          | 1   | 1.2             | N                          | Y                        | Y                   | S                        |
|                        | Soft Space (to be defined locally)                | 11                           | 1   | 11              | n/a                        | N                        | Y                   | A                        |
| Changing places Toilet |                                                   | 12.6                         | 1   | 12.6            | n/a                        | N                        | Y                   | A                        |
| Total                  |                                                   |                              |     | 1057.2          |                            |                          |                     |                          |

