Belfast Health and Social Care Trust
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TRUST BOARD

MEETING	Trust Board		
DIRECTOR	Deputy Chief Executive	**Date**	7 November 2024

Accommodation for the Radiological Imaging and Protection Service (RIPS) - Medical Physics

Purpose	• The Radiological Imaging and Protection Service (RIPS) is part of the Regional Medical Physics Service within the BHSCT and provides patient safety assurance services across Northern Ireland to all HSC Trusts and multiple private sector clients. It supports all Trusts with their compliance with statutory legislation relating to ionising and non-ionising radiations and contains staff undertaking multiple specialist advisory roles relating to these legislations. • This paper seeks approval to proceed with the provision of capital funding (£2,794,503) to relocate the service from the Forster Green site to expanded accommodation on the Knockbracken site (Moy Villa).
Corporate Theme	• Safety, Quality, Experience • Service Delivery • Strategy and Partnership
Key areas for consideration	**Issues/risks** Modern imaging systems use different types of radiation as part of the imaging process. These can be broken down into two broad types: • Ionising radiations such as those used in X-ray based imaging systems such as Computed Tomography (CT) and Digital X-Ray systems • Non-Ionising radiations such as those used in MRI and Ultrasound imaging systems In addition, patient safety assurance testing, dosimetry and advice around laser and ultra-violet radiations are also required. Patient safety assurance is provided by having sufficient number of trained staff in place to carry out the required tasks and being able to recruit and retain these staff. There is insufficient space in the current accommodation for the number of staff needed to provide the services required to support the BHSCT and regionally. Without

	these staff compliance with the legislation and patient safety assurance cannot be maintained **Legislation** Use of each of the above categories of radiation is regulated by legislation including:- • Ionising Radiations Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017 (IRR). • Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) Regulations (NI) 2018 (IRMER) • Radioactive Substances Act 1993 (RSA) • The Control of Electromagnetic Fields at Work Regulations (NI) 2016 • The Control of Artificial Optical Radiation at Work Regulations (NI) 2010 The regulations apply to both the independent sector and the public sector (HSC) and aim to make sure that both ionising and non-ionising radiations are used safely to protect patients, staff and members of the public from the risk of harm when being exposed to radiations. Staff within RIPS are the Radiation Protection Advisers (RPAs), Radioactive Waste Advisers (RWA), Medical Physics Experts (MPEs), Dangerous Goods Safety Advisors (DGSAs), Laser Protection Advisers (LPAs) and Magnetic Resonance Safety Experts (MRSE) for the BHSCT and Regionally. **Costs** The service have engaged with Estates and Capital Finance to identify options for provision of suitable accommodation and have identified different options on the Knockbracken site. Full refurbishment of Moy Villa is the preferred choice based on cost, value for money and timelines. Full refurbishment of Moy Villa will require £2,794,503 and will be planned over two years. Partial refurbishment of Moy Villa is an alternative option (£2,309,550) but is deemed to be less optimal as any future refurbishment of the building is likely to add cost and significant disruption to the service. The cost include Design Team cost (£260,316), is inclusive of Contingency and Optimism Bias (£282,952), includes inflationary costs at 3% (£62,250), furniture and fittings (£188,635) and IT costs (£45,000). Estates have developed a Project Initiation Document (2122/P/109) and an IPT has been completed. Alternative options considered were significantly more expensive (between £6-8.5 million) and unlikely to be achievable within the required timelines.
Recommendation	• Suitable accommodation for the Radiological Imaging and Protection Service (RIPS) is urgently required and should be provided by the BHSCT. Do nothing is considered extremely high risk as it will impact on the service being able to have enough staff to provide its essential service to the BHSCT and regionally to the other HSC Trusts. • Approval to proceed with the relocation of the service from the Forster Green site to expanded accommodation on the Knockbracken site (Moy Villa) should be granted.