



Rannán na nOspidéal Ghéarmhíochaine  
Aonad 1A, Áras Dargan, An Ceantar Theas, An Bóthar Míleata  
Cill Mhaighneann, Baile Átha Cliath 8

Acute Operations  
Unit 1A, The Dargan Building, Heuston South Quarter,  
Military Road, Kilmainham, Dublin 8  
☎: 07669 59972 ✉: [acutehospitals@hse.ie](mailto:acutehospitals@hse.ie)

Deputy Louise O' Reilly  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

25<sup>th</sup> May 2018

**PQ 20886/18\*** *To ask the Minister for Health the number of consultants practicing paediatric rheumatology; the locations in which they are based; the whole time equivalent spend on paediatric rheumatology cases; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

Dear Deputy O' Reilly,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

**Response:**

I can confirm that there are two consultants employed as consultant paediatricians with a special interest in rheumatology. The consultants practice in the following hospitals:

Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin, 39 hrs

Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin, 29 hrs / St Vincent's University Hospital 6.5 hrs and

Our Lady's Hospice and Care Services Harold's Cross 3.5 hrs

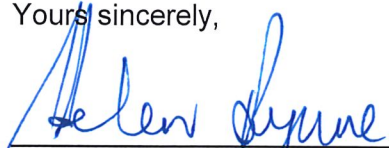
This data is taken from our National Doctors Integrated E-Management System (DIME).

Chapter 43 of the recently published "National Model of Care for Paediatric Healthcare Services in Ireland" details the current and future plans for the development of paediatric rheumatology services in Ireland. This document has been developed for the Irish setting and supersedes any externally suggested paediatric rheumatology staffing ratios. The National Model of Care for Paediatric Healthcare Services in Ireland recommended the adoption of guidance extrapolated from the British Society for Rheumatology which has recommended one paediatric rheumatologist to every 200,000 children. It is therefore advised that there should be a minimum of six paediatric rheumatology consultant posts in Ireland.

Funding for this service is included within the overall specific hospital budgets. Hospital Groups can prioritise services requirements within their group and allocate appropriate funding, as indicated. Submissions for additional consultant posts were made in 2017 and 2018 estimates and no funding was provided.

I trust this answers your question to your satisfaction.

Yours sincerely,



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**Helen Byrne**  
**Assistant National Director**  
**Acute Operations**