

**Children's Health Ireland,
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Phone: 0766959180**

17th April 2019

Deputy Louise O'Reilly,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 15835/19

"To ask the Minister for Health the wait time for a first orthopaedic appointment at Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin".

Dear Deputy O'Reilly,

I refer to your parliamentary question above to which I have been asked to provide a response.

Children's Health Ireland (CHI) is currently recruiting two additional general orthopaedic consultants which will further reduce waiting times for children for an orthopaedic outpatient appointment.

More broadly, all patient referrals to the orthopaedic spinal service at CHI are reviewed and clinically prioritised by a consultant. The current waiting time for a first OPD appointment for an orthopaedic consultant is over twelve months.

An additional 800 Outpatient appointments were given to patients in CHI at Crumlin in 2018 compared to 2017, which led to a 31% reduction in the overall orthopaedic outpatient waiting list.

The Department of Health is working closely with CHI with the aim of supporting the further development of a sustainable scoliosis service and ensuring that the on-going demand for services is met.

Children's Health Ireland at Crumlin is working to reduce waiting times for children attending its orthopaedic and scoliosis services with additional investment from the HSE.

Yours sincerely,



**Joe Gannon
Chief Operations Officer
Children's Health Ireland**