

**Children's Health Ireland,
Block A Herberton,
St. James's Walk,
Rialto,
Dublin 8.
Phone: 0766959180**

18th April 2019

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

PQ 15841/19

To ask the Minister for Health if children that are waiting for scoliosis surgery across Children's Health Ireland will be offered treatment under the NTPF if they are over the HSE set four month target in view of the fact that this target is in line with international best practice and also one of the ten recommendations arising from the report Waiting on Scoliosis Treatment - A Children's Rights Issue from the Ombudsman for Children

Dear Deputy O'Reilly,

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

The impact of investment and the implementation of the Scoliosis 10 Point Action Plan is continuing to deliver results with a consistent reduction in waiting times being recorded.

There has been an additional 60 posts approved, with staff starting at different months in 2018 and 2019. Children's Health Ireland (CHI) is currently recruiting two additional general orthopaedic consultants which will further reduce waiting times for surgery and outpatient clinics to address the lengthy waiting times experienced by children, young people and their families.

CHI continue to work to reduce the average time wait for scoliosis surgery to four months.

Yours sincerely,



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