



Children's Health Ireland

Sláinte Leanaí Éireann (SLÉ), Herberton, Siúlán San Séamas, Rialto, D08 HP97, Éire
Children's Health Ireland (CHI), Herberton, St James's Walk, Rialto, D08 HP97, Ireland

12th December 2019

Deputy Stephen Donnelly,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 50212/19

"To ask the Minister for Health the number of staff positions unfilled in Children's Health Ireland at Connolly Hospital".

Dear Deputy Donnelly,

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

The opening of CHI at Connolly in Blanchardstown, in July 2019, was an important development in the plan for children's services and the new children's hospital project, the most significant capital investment in healthcare ever undertaken by the State. It already has had an impact on children, young people, their families and staff as waiting lists for services are reducing. Key elements of the national paediatric model of care for the benefit of patients by bringing fast, convenient, quality care close to their home, as is clinically appropriate will be implemented in this new facility.

CHI at Connolly in Blanchardstown is staffed by specialist paediatric staff including nurses, doctors, health and social care professionals, and includes new staff as well as staff from the three children's hospitals.

CHI can confirm that in respect of the Urgent Care Centre at Connolly there are 3 vacant consultant posts, 2 Paediatric Radiologists and 1 in Paediatric Emergency Medicine. Consultant.

There are also two temporary vacant posts in paediatric emergency medicine due to planned leave. While recruitment is ongoing, CHI have not been successful with expanding the Consultant workforce in Radiology and Emergency Medicine, both of which are critical to extending opening hours of the urgent care centre.

CHI Executives are meeting with the relevant staff groups to work on potential solutions to support extending the opening hours at the Urgent Care Centre in Quarter 3 2020.



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On opening two specialties commenced delivering outpatient services at CHI at Connolly, Monday to Friday 8am – 6pm. These are, General Paediatrics and Orthopaedics (fracture clinic).

CHI has focused on increasing the clinic numbers and services provided. CHI started with General Paediatrics only in August and is now running virtual clinics, a weekly pilot Orthopaedic clinic, as well as a weekly allergy clinic.

Further OPD clinics will commence in January 2020 i.e. Rheumatology, weight management and faltering growth and Asthma.

Yours sincerely,

Joe Gannon
Chief Operations Officer
Children's Health Ireland
Email: coo@nchg.ie

Mission – To promote and provide child-centered, research-led and learning informed healthcare, to the highest standards of safety and excellence. We do this in partnership with each other, with children, young people and their families through a network of children's services in Ireland.

CRA Registered Charity Number (RCN): 20202295 Revenue Charitable Status CHY: 22235

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