

10th February 2020

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

PQ 52381/19

To ask the Minister for Health the type of procedures that were cancelled or postponed in regard to the recent cancellations of elective procedures at the children's hospitals; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Donnelly,

I refer to your parliamentary question above to which I have been asked to provide a response. May I take this opportunity to apologise for the long delay in providing this response to you, as it required co-ordination and validation across each of the children's hospitals.

Due to several weeks of significant pressures on children's hospitals due to respiratory virus and flu, CHI have regrettably had to postpone inpatient admissions for surgery due to pressures for critical care and acute inpatient beds, from the period 1 November to 29 Dec Children's Health Ireland (CHI) had 25,638 attendances at Temple Street, Crumlin and Tallaght and the Urgent Care Centre at Connolly in Blanchardstown.

9,687 of these attendances were at Temple Street. 7,468 were at Crumlin. 6,640 were at Tallaght and 1,843 were at Connolly. On average 480 children attend our EDs over a 24 hour period. On 16 December there were 644 attendances at the EDs in the three children's hospitals.

To help alleviate the current surge in attendances at EDs in the children's hospitals, the Minister for Health has made funding available for 8 (new beds in St Philomena's Ward at CHI at Temple Street. These beds are single room, suitable for isolation, these will help address some of the pressures on timely admission. The Minister for Health has provided funding to staff these new beds. The Minister has also made additional funding to open 16 'surge beds' over the winter months to help with the increased capacity, this is to use days at weekends or overnight, as and when required.



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

CHI is very cognisant of the impact that a change in admission for surgery has on patients and their families and sincerely regrets that on occasion deferment of planned admissions occurs. The decision to delay admission is not undertaken lightly and when such a decision is made, it is based on the safe delivery of care to all patients.

CHI can advise that the hospitals are in direct contact with families whose child's admission has been postponed and to reschedule their child's surgery.

Please see, on the attached four sheets, details on cancellations as requested, by specialty, for CHI at Crumlin, Temple Street and Tallaght for the period 4 November to the 15 December 2019.

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

Board Members: Prof James Browne (Chairman), Prof Niamh Brennan, Mr Con Cronin, Ms Mary Cryan, Mr Liam Dowdall, Prof Martin Elliott, Ms Catherine Guy, Dr Anne Kilgallen, Dr Gavin Lavery, Ms Brigid McManus, Mr Turlough O'Sullivan, Mr Sean Sheehan

Elective Cancellations due to No Bed as a Percentage of the Total Admissions - CHI at Crumlin

4th November 2019 to 15th December 2019

Specialty	Cancellations			Admissions			% of Admissions		
	Day Case	Inpatient	Total	Day Case	Inpatient	Total	Day Case	Inpatient	Total
Cardio Thor. Surgery		3	3	30	37	67	0.0%	7.5%	4.3%
Clinical Immunology				56	5	61	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Dental Surgery	4		4	32	2	34	11.1%	0.0%	10.5%
Diabetes Mellitus					4	4	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Maxillo-Facial		2	2	5	3	8	0.0%	40.0%	20.0%
Neonatology		4	4	9	15	24	0.0%	21.1%	14.3%
Ophthalmology	1		1	28		28	3.4%	0.0%	3.4%
Paediatric Anaesthetics				5	1	6	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Paediatric Cardiology	2	4	6	132	83	215	1.5%	4.6%	2.7%
Paediatric Dermatology	1	3	4	58	5	63	1.7%	37.5%	6.0%
Paediatric Endocrinology		4	4	37	13	50	0.0%	23.5%	7.4%
Paediatric ENT	1	15	16	37	31	68	2.6%	32.6%	19.0%
Paediatric Gastro Enterology	6	14	20	206	22	228	2.8%	38.9%	8.1%
Paediatric Haematology	3	3	6	724	114	838	0.4%	2.6%	0.7%
Paediatric Infectious Diseases				20	2	22	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

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Paediatric Metabolic Medicine					11	11	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Paediatric Nephrology		5	5	7	16	23	0.0%	23.8%	17.9%
Paediatric Neurology	1	3	4	18	8	26	5.3%	27.3%	13.3%
Paediatric Oncology	2	10	12	363	88	451	0.5%	10.2%	2.6%
Paediatric Orthopaedic Surgery	17	29	46	134	107	241	11.3%	21.3%	16.0%
Paediatric Radiology				8		8	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Paediatric Respiratory Medicine	1	26	27	15	94	109	6.3%	21.7%	19.9%
Paediatric Surgery	13	39	52	123	139	262	9.6%	21.9%	16.6%
Paediatric Urology	4	9	13	60	20	80	6.3%	31.0%	14.0%
Paediatrics		2	2	47	528	575	0.0%	0.4%	0.3%
Plastic Surgery	1	2	3	74	52	126	1.3%	3.7%	2.3%
Immunology				30	2	32	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Rheumatology		1	1	59		59	0.0%	100.0%	1.7%
Total	57	178	235	2,317	1,402	3,719	2.4%	11.3%	5.9%

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**Elective Cancellations as a Percentage of the Total Admissions - CHI at Temple Street
 4th November 2019 to 15th December 2019**

Specialty	Cancellations			Admissions			% of Admissions		
	Day Case	Inpatient	Total	Day Case	Inpatient	Total	Day Case	Inpatient	Total
Dental Surgery	3	3	6	6	0	6	33.33%	0.00%	50.00%
Gynaecology	1		1	1	0	1	50.00%	0.00%	50.00%
Paediatric Metabolic Medicine	1	16	17	0	16	16	100.00%	50.00%	51.52%
Neonatology		4	4	0	4	4	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%
Ophthalmology	7	2	9	51	7	58	12.07%	22.22%	13.43%
Paediatric Endocrinology	2	5	7	14	23	37	12.50%	17.86%	15.91%
Paediatric ENT	12	40	52	168	57	225	6.67%	41.24%	18.77%
Haematology	1		1	11	1	12	8.33%	0.00%	7.69%
Paediatric Nephrology		1	1	157	19	176	0.00%	5.00%	0.56%
Paediatric Neurology	2	7	9	17	18	35	10.53%	28.00%	20.45%
Neurosurgery		15	15	7	29	36	0.00%	34.09%	29.41%
Paediatric Orthopaedic Surgery	15	31	46	81	63	144	15.63%	32.98%	24.21%
Paediatric Respiratory Medicine		30	30	38	56	94	0.00%	34.88%	24.19%
Paediatric Surgery	12	32	44	46	58	104	20.69%	35.56%	29.73%
Paediatric Urology	7	4	11	12	7	19	36.84%	36.36%	36.67%
Paediatrics	8	3	11	12	375	387	40.00%	0.79%	2.76%
Plastic Surgery	7	9	16	69	24	93	9.21%	27.27%	14.68%
Radiology	2		2	95	6	101	2.06%	0.00%	1.94%
Rheumatology	1		1	1	0	1	50.00%	0.00%	50.00%
Total	81	202	283	786	763	1,549	9.34%	20.93%	15.45%

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**Elective Cancellations as a Percentage of the Total Admissions - CHI at Tallaght
 4th November 2019 to 15th December 2019**

Specialty	Cancellations			Admissions			% of Admissions		
	Day Case	Inpatient	Total	Day Case	Inpatient	Total	Day Case	Inpatient	Total
Paediatric ENT	3	8	11	32	14	46	8.57%	36.36%	19.30%
Paediatric Respiratory Medicine	0	9	9	18	27	45	0.00%	25.00%	16.67%
Paediatric Surgery	0	1	1	90	65	155	0.00%	1.52%	0.64%
Paediatrics	0	4	4	52	557	609	0.00%	0.71%	0.65%
Paediatric Cystic Fibrosis				11	4	15	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Paediatric Dentistry				12	0	12	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Paediatric Developmental				0	1	1	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Paediatric Diabetic				0	3	3	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Paediatric Emergency Medicine				1	48	49	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Paediatric Endocrinology				0	2	2	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Paediatric Gastroenterology				30	33	63	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Paediatric Immunology				8	0	8	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Paediatric Neurology				2	0	2	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Paediatric Orthopaedics				6	0	6	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Total	3	22	25	262	754	1,016	1.13%	2.84%	2.40%