



Children's Health Ireland  
21<sup>st</sup> May 2019

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

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

**PQ 20967/19**

"To ask the Minister for Health the reason these is an insufficient number of eligible applications for approved permanent consultant posts in CHI; and the reason he has not restored pay parity for new entrant consultants as recommended in the Public Service Pay Commission report published in August 2018 in view of the fact that this is one of the main factors that is driving the required specialists abroad"

Dear Deputy O'Reilly,

I refer to your parliamentary question above to which I have been asked to provide a response in relation to consultant posts in CHI.

A total of 13 consultant posts are included in the HSE National Service Plan 2019 to support services in CHI that are opening in the paediatric outpatient and urgent care centre at Connolly Hospital. To date 10 of these positions have been filled (6 Paediatric Emergency Medicine Consultants and 4 General Paediatric Consultants) and recruitment is ongoing for the 3 remaining posts, with options to support service being developed with the specific specialities involved. There are recruitment challenges nationally and internationally in certain specialities, such as, paediatric radiology. CHI acknowledges this challenge and while recruitment is ongoing, contingency plans are under development to ensure that services at Connolly will open in July 2019.

All nursing positions have been successfully filled within the organisation and an external recruitment campaign has been launched to support the backfill required at each CHI hospital.

The Health and Social Care Professionals and Administrative/Operations posts are being filled through an internal recruitment campaign with an external recruitment campaign to follow if additional backfill is required within CHI.

CHI can only respond on matters specific to CHI, the matter of restoration of pay parity for new entrant consultants needs to be addressed by other parties.

Yours sincerely,

*PP Anne-Marie Mc Kiernan*  
**Joe Gannon**  
Chief Operations Officer  
Children's Health Ireland

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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