



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

3rd December 2019

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

PQ 48317/19

"To ask the Minister for Health if the paediatric bone densitometry scanner at Temple Street Children's University Hospital is open and sufficiently staffed; the regularity with which it is operational weekly; and if he will make a statement on the matter".

Dear Deputy O'Reilly,

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

In the past twelve months a DXA scanner was procured and installed in a custom fitted room designed in CHI at Temple Street to accommodate the needs of children and adolescents with concerns for bone health.

Over the past six months the team involved in the Bone Densitometry service has completed training and attained experience with the use of the scanner. In tandem, with the DXA scanner, a bone health assessment service will be launched in CHI at Temple Street which will provide a comprehensive assessment of bone health from a physical, musculoskeletal, radiological and biochemical perspective for children who require such a service. The service is scheduled to open in January 2020 for referrals once NIMIS (National Integrated Medical Imaging System) is fully operational in Temple Street, following the initial GO LIVE on Tues 3rd Dec 2019.

The service will initially open for one day a week with a view to increasing to two days based on the number of requests received. This is comparable to similar services in the UK and Europe. Referrals to the service will be triaged according to the International Society for Clinical Densitometry guidelines and all children and adolescents must be under the care of a Tertiary Consultant Paediatrician. The service will be managed as a Joint Endocrinology/Radiology initiative and is part of the novel innovations funded by Temple Street Foundation (the fundraising arm of CHI at Temple Street) which have made the recent creation of the Centre for Rare Paediatric Bone Disorders possible.

Yours sincerely,

Joe Gannon
Chief Operations Officer
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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.

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