



Children's Health Ireland  
2<sup>nd</sup> October 2019

Stáinte 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 Catherine Murphy,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 37986/19**

"To ask the Minister for Health the way in which staff and agency nurses are allocated and or assigned per children's hospital in Dublin; and if he will make a statement on the matter".

Dear Deputy Murphy,

I refer to your parliamentary question above to which I have been asked to provide a response on behalf of Children's Health Ireland. CHI use the National Framework Agreement for Agency Services to procure nursing agency services.

**CHI at Crumlin**

Staff nurses and agency staff nurses are allocated by assessing the clinical requirements and acuity of sick children at ward and departmental level and skill mix by senior nursing management (Site Management) to ensure patient safety and mitigate risk.

**CHI at Temple Street**

Agency nurses are allocated on an ad hoc basis, they are requested through an agency. Nurses are assigned based on patient acuity and utilising the RCN standards for ward areas, as well as numbers of attendances to the ward, the age profile and number of beds on the ward. In specialist areas such as Neurosurgery and Renal services we utilise the HDU standards as acuity on these wards can vary and many children require high dependency care. On a daily basis this is managed by senior nursing Management to ensure patient safety.

**CHI at Tallaght**

CHI at Tallaght rarely use Agency Nurses. Should a Nurse be required they are booked through the Tallaght Hospital Bank. Allocations depend on Acuity of Patient, Acuity at Ward Level, Skill – Mix and experience of Agency Nurses

Yours sincerely,

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

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

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