



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 August 2020

Deputy Réada Cronin,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 19756/20

"To ask the Minister for Health the number of children awaiting an appointment for a MRI with and without general anaesthetic; the number of children with allocated appointments in a time frame of more than six months; the furthest date of appointments allocated; and if he will make a statement on the matter".

Dear Deputy Cronin,

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

The Radiology Departments in Crumlin, Tallaght and Temple Street in Children's Health Ireland (CHI) have lengthy waiting times for access to scans, in particular the waiting list for MRI under General Anaesthetic (GA). Young children and children with special needs cannot remain still for the extended period of time required to complete a MRI scan and therefore need to be anaesthetised for the duration of the scan. This lengthens the investigation slot as the child is anaesthetised and needs time and space to recover after the scan. The waiting times for access to MRI scans under GA have been a long standing challenge as demands for this investigation far outstrips the current MRI capacity in CHI. There currently are 2 MRI scanners in CHI (Temple Street and Crumlin) both CHI scanners are beyond their lifetime, with additional / replacement scanners due to be installed in Q4 2020. We also have access to an adult MRI in Tallaght University for 1 session a week. Due to COVID-19 and the required social distancing, MRI scans throughput has significantly reduced. The Radiology Departments in Temple Street and Crumlin have worked with management to identify investments needed to increase MRI capacity both within CHI and with external providers.

CHI is currently working on plans in the short, medium and long term to increase imaging capacity to our patients and reduce time on a wait list. In the short term, CHI is currently looking at increasing access to MRI slots in the private sector. This will assist in shortening waitlists and with meeting the increasing demand on the MRI service. CHI is also reviewing investment in MRI infrastructure into the future which will include additional MRI machines at CHI at Crumlin and Temple Street.

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



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Based on End July data:

Waiting Times for MRI as at end July 2020	CHI at Crumlin	CHI at Temple Street	CHI at Tallaght	Total
No of patients waiting for MRI with GA	618	185	94	897
No of patients waiting for MRI without GA are	760	678*	393	1,831
No of patients allocated an appointment greater than six months	854	*	350	1,204

* 165 with sedation and 513 Walk ins

** CHI at TS do not book GA/Sedations/Walk ins beyond one month due to the potential of urgency of scans being ordered.

Yours sincerely,

Joe Gannon
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Children's Health Ireland
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