

24th June 2020

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

PQ 13137/20

"To ask the Minister for Health if the necessary funding will be provided for the recruitment of a consultant anaesthesiologist with a special interest in paediatric complex pain management in Children's Health Ireland at Crumlin and Temple Street; and when this post will be filled".

Dear Deputy Murphy,

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

Children's Health Ireland (CHI) is aware that the current situation regarding the Paediatric Complex Pain Management Service is a cause of much anxiety and upset for parents and children.

CHI met with the Complex Pain Patient Advocacy Group on Friday 7 February and advised them that it has written to all families whose children have been attending the complex pain management service in Crumlin or Temple Street to give them an update and contact numbers should they need clinical related advice for their child. CHI also updated the group on how interim services will work with CHI, which is the management of a number of priority patients in the first instance and a focus on communications with families.

The Consultant Anaesthesiologist with a special interest in Paediatric Complex Pain Management in CHI at Crumlin and Temple Street resigned in late 2019. This is a highly specialised position. Prior to this resignation, CHI submitted business cases to the Health Service Executive (HSE) to develop the Paediatric Complex Pain Management Service and has now secured funding for the creation of the following new positions;

- Consultant Anaesthesia/Pain Specialists
- Occupational Therapist
- Psychologist
- Physiotherapist
- Advance Nurse Practitioner.



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

With the advent of COVID-19 pandemic the teams across CHI at Crumlin and Temple Street focussed on progressing these posts and this service is a priority for actively recruiting this posts through the normal Human Resources processes. It is hoped to fill these positions as soon as possible. As an interim measure, we have secured the services of Consultant Anaesthesiologist in Northern Ireland who specialises in both Paediatric and Adult Complex Pain Management who is assisting CHI colleagues in continuing the Paediatric Complex Pain Management Service for patients until the these posts commence.

The application for this post is being progressed (through both the clinical and managerial process) with the intention that it is brought to the agenda of the Consultant Applications Advisory Committee (CAAC) in July 2020. Once approved by CAAC the recruitment process will commence. This post will be split equally across CHI at Crumlin and Temple Street.

Yours sincerely,

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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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