



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

2nd July 2020

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

PQ 13461/20

"To ask the Minister for Health the plan being put in place to ensure that children with scoliosis will have access to surgery and care over the course of 2020 to ensure children have access to timely scoliosis care; if a plan has been put in place for children with scoliosis; 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.

Children's Health Ireland (CHI) sincerely regrets that children and their families are experiencing long waiting times for their appointments. While the majority of children are seen within a 12 month period, we recognise that too many are waiting too long for their appointments and CHI is making every effort to reduce these wait times.

The introduction of government restrictions for COVID-19 based on public health advice required CHI at Crumlin and CHI at Temple Street to defer all non-emergency surgeries.

CHI at Crumlin and CHI at Temple Street are now planning to phase up services on an incremental basis. The plan to phase the increase in services has a number of dependent factors.

As part of an overall investment from National Service Planning, the funding for orthopaedic services allocated in 2018, with posts phased in 2019, ensured the enhancement of the entire orthopaedic service.

An additional General Orthopaedic Surgeon is due to commence in Q3 2020 for CHI (based at Crumlin and Tallaght sites). This post is for general orthopaedic and trauma surgery to support the large volume of patients waiting and will further support waiting times for children for general orthopaedic outpatient appointments, including scoliosis.

I trust this is satisfactory.

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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Yours sincerely,

Joe Gannon
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