

**26th April 2020**

Deputy Bríd Smith T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2  
E: [brid.smith@oireachtas.ie](mailto:brid.smith@oireachtas.ie)

**Re: PQ 18611/21 – National Gender Service, St Columcille's Hospital**

**“To ask the Minister for Health if he will introduce a new model of care for trans persons by investing in surgery options here and providing training for general practitioners in order that they can provide an excellent and informed level of aftercare for trans persons; his views on the need to abide by international best practice standards of care as established by the WHO; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”**

Dear Deputy Smith,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question seeking an update on the National Gender Service in St Columcille's Hospital, which has been referred to the Ireland East Hospital Group for direct response.

I have had this matter examined and am advised that following the loss of the only public sector surgical service in St James' Hospital in 2020, the National Gender Service are drafting a business case at the moment that will be a request for funding for a gender affirming surgery programme that will be based in Ireland. This is at the scoping and planning stage but they expect to submit a full business case by the end of the year. In the interim, the National Gender Service are supporting people in accessing surgery via the Cross Border Directive and the Treatment Abroad Scheme.

The National Gender Service is available for GP support and training and offers training to GPs on a regular basis. The National Gender Service approached the ICGP earlier this year offering training that would be available on their website: this offer was acknowledged by their Education Manager and Medical Director, who said they would consider it.

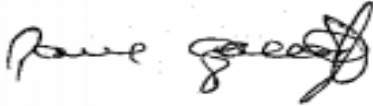


Regarding best practice standards of care, the closest thing the WHO have to such a statement would be their position on the reclassification of the ICD 11.

[www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/health-determinants/gender/gender-definitions/who-europe-brief-transgender-health-in-the-context-of-icd-11](http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/health-determinants/gender/gender-definitions/who-europe-brief-transgender-health-in-the-context-of-icd-11)

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely



Paul Gallagher  
Chief Director of Nursing and Midwifery