

**8th March 2020**

Deputy Richard Bruton T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2  
E: [richard.bruton@oireachtas.ie](mailto:richard.bruton@oireachtas.ie)

**Re: PQ 10393/21 – Transgender health services, St Columcille's Hospital**

**“To ask the Minister for Health if the plans for transgender health services have been implemented; and his views on reports of confusion in relation to the locations to which persons should be referred.”**

Dear Deputy Bruton,

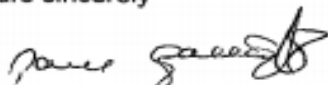
I refer to the above Parliamentary Question seeking an update on transgender health services in St Columcille's Hospital, which has been referred to the Ireland East Hospital Group for direct response.

I have had this matter examined and am advised that a major service development programme is underway at the National Gender Service (NGS). This has resulted in the recruitment of additional staff and expansion of the range of services offered. However, the service remains under-resourced, and demand exceeds capacity. Waiting times continue to increase as a result of this disparity in capacity and demand. Therefore, the NGS has submitted a number of business cases for additional staff and resources. This have been included in the current estimates process. If approved, then the service will meet demand and waiting times will reduce.

There has been confusion about the referrals of people under the age of 17. People aged 17 and over can be referred to the NGS but those under 17 have previously been referred to CHI Crumlin.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely



Paul Gallagher  
Chief Director of Nursing and Midwifery