



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

5th March 2021

Deputy Sean Sherlock
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 11458/21

"To ask the Minister for Health the status of disability services for children and young persons in relation to children with spina bifida and hydrocephalus on accessing health services within their local area and equity of services received in CHI at Temple Street and Crumlin; and if he will make a statement on the matter".

Dear Deputy Sherlock,

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

The introduction of government restrictions for COVID-19 based on public health advice required CHI at Crumlin and Temple Street to defer all non-emergency surgeries and OPD clinics. CHI at Crumlin and Temple Street are now planning to phase up services on an incremental basis.

Disability Services continues to be identified as a service prioritisation in CHI, which needs to include the allocation of appropriate resources, supports, the right service being available for the right patient at the right time.

The reintroduction of services in a COVID environment poses a number of challenges with regard to capacity and efficiency in the system. Key social distancing measures and Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) requirements, such as the current two-metre distancing, have material impact on the available physical space to deliver services, significantly impacting on the overall capacity and operational activity levels for inpatient / outpatient settings. As such, we are reassessing the capacity that will be available this year.

Activity is increasing with appropriate safety precautions and we strive for equity across all services and sites in CHI. CHI is working closely with the HSE in relation to planning and delivering care in the new normal and in the context of the overall service continuity plan for the health system.

The crisis and challenges in healthcare created by the COVID-19 pandemic has only magnified the difficulties our patients, their families and our staff experience daily in delivering acute paediatric healthcare services to Ireland's sickest children

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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is outdated facilities in our existing hospitals with their poor digital infrastructure and old equipment.

The criticality of the new children's hospital and the new facility at Tallaght, its digital infrastructure, modern equipment and enhanced workforce are at the very core of CHI's plans to enhance clinical outcomes and develop services provided to Ireland's sickest children and adolescents.

Yours sincerely,

Joe Gannon
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