

29th March 2021

Deputy David Cullinane
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 12978/21

"To ask the Minister for Health the number of children in relation to the long waiting times for MRIs in CHI that are currently waiting; the duration of their wait; the number of children who have been outsourced for a MRI during 2020-2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

I refer to your parliamentary question above to which I have been asked to provide a response on behalf of Children's Health Ireland (CHI).

CHI acknowledge that too many children are waiting too long for their scan and awaiting notification regarding the funding of additional MRI capacity across CHI

In relation to the provision of MRI services, the demand for specialist imaging has increased over years due to increased activity and acuity in CHI, as well as an increasing trend to utilise imaging in diagnosis and treatment. MRI imaging is a major diagnostic and therapeutic service and relied on more and more within the paediatric specialities such as, cardiology, oncology, neurology, rheumatology, orthopaedics and spinal surgery. Uniquely to Paediatrics, younger children and children up to 18 years old with complex needs may be unable to remain still in a MRI for the lengthy periods required to complete the scan, resulting in the requirement for a General Anaesthetic (GA) to be delivered by a Paediatric Anaesthesiologist. This limits the ability for these scans to be performed outside of CHI.



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

CHI Combines Diagnostic Waiting List Q4 2020								
Modality	0-3 Months	3-6 Months	6-9 Months	9-12 Months	12-15 Months	15-18 Months	18+ Months	Total
CT	160	39	8	2	3		1	213
MRI	1,013	517	286	381	290	215	655	3,357
Ultrasound	1,689	905	248	325	204	167	535	4,073
Vascular Ultrasound	11	7	2	2			1	23
Total	2,873	1,468	544	710	497	382	1,192	7,666

CHI has been able to outsource MRI's to private providers based on clinical criteria and 154 patients have had their scan performed outside of CHI in 2021.

CHI have been engaging with the HSE/Department of Health is trying to secure funding for an additional MRI scanner and staff that are required to meet the need of our current patients and those who require a MRI scan in the future. This has also been raised with the Minister of Health during a recent visit to CHI.

Yours sincerely,

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