



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

19<sup>th</sup> March 2021

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

**PQ 12979/21**

"To ask the Minister for Health the number of children that were outsourced for scoliosis surgery in each of the years 2019, 2020 and to date in 2021; the hospital to which they were outsourced; 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.

As part of the outsourcing initiative to implement the HSE Scoliosis Waiting List Action Plan for 2017, families were offered the opportunity to have their child's surgery abroad. In total as part of this initiative 28 patients have had their treatment abroad in 2017 and 1 patient had their treatment as part of this initiative in 2018.

There were no patients outsourced abroad for scoliosis surgeries in 2019-2021.

The investment in paediatric orthopaedics, to include scoliosis services has already improved access for surgery and out-patient review to address the lengthy waiting times experienced by children and young people with scoliosis. All consultant resources for CHI at Crumlin associated with scoliosis surgery have been appointed.

Children's Health Ireland (CHI) has appointed a Scheduled Care Lead to help improve access to services. We are validating our OPD waiting lists to ensure that lists are accurate and up to date and that no child is unnecessarily waiting on a list.

CHI is actively working with the National Treatment Purchase Fund (NTPF) to drive insourcing and outsourcing initiatives, with a particular focus on long waiters.



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The new children's hospital will, in time, expand the physical capacity needed to increase activity and reduce waiting times in all paediatric services to help tackle current and future challenges in child health.

Yours sincerely,

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Children's Health Ireland  
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**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

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