



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

11th March 2021

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

PQ 12980/21

"To ask the Minister for Health if there are plans to outsource children for scoliosis surgery; his views on the wait times for scoliosis surgery; the number of children waiting; the plans to ensure children's safety and their right to access the best attainable healthcare; 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.

The orthopaedic team is working under the Chief Clinical Director of Children's Health Ireland (CHI) to further integrate clinical services Cross City. A number of initiatives are being explored to include, but not limited to the following;

- potential for further patients to be transferred to Cappagh for those who meet the criteria;
- recent experience has demonstrated that previous strategies which looked at outsourcing spinal patients to external providers in the UK and Europe, has not been overly successful as spinal patients often require additional follow up and the management of post-operative complications. These also are compounded for patients by the need to travel overseas especially now during Covid-19 and challenges with clinical governance issues;
- Crumlin are outsourcing to private providers (proof of concept week of 10th of August with NTPF funding, commissioning that can deliver potentially 3-4 spinal fusion cases and a number of non-spinal patients over that week;
- Potential for strategic alliance with private providers, namely (age 14 plus) and (age 8 plus) for a limited cohort of otherwise healthy patients;

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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- Temple Street has submitted a proposal to the National Treatment Purchase Fund (NTPF) to support additional orthopaedic OPD clinics in Cappagh Hospital to ease pressures on OPD activity. This may have an indirect positive affect on Scoliosis services by decompressing OPD clinics in Temple Street. Initial discussions are also taking place between CHI and Cappagh in relation to large-scale investment in paediatric orthopaedic and High Dependency Unit services in Cappagh whereby a significant proportion of non-complex elective orthopaedic activity may potentially be transferred.

I attach a copy of the scoliosis newsletter as at 26th February 2021 for your information.

Yours sincerely,

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Children's Health Ireland
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