



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

7<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Deputy Catherine Connolly,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 14839/21**

"To ask the Minister for Health the number of children on the pain relief outpatient waiting list; if Children's Health Ireland is currently taking referrals for children in need of chronic pain services; if not, the length of time it has been since it took these referrals; the reason it has not been taking these referrals; and if he will make a statement on the matter".

Dear Deputy Connolly,

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

Children's Health Ireland (CHI) is aware that the current interim situation regarding our Paediatric Complex Pain Management Service is a cause of much anxiety and upset for parents and children. CHI secured funding from the HSE to develop a Paediatric Complex Pain Management Service and has recruited the following new posts; Occupational Therapist, Psychologist, Physiotherapist and Advance Nurse Practitioner.

Referrals to the Complex Pain Service are accepted from secondary care (hospital) consultants. There are currently approximately 85 patients being actively looked after by the complex pain service and over 30 new referrals to the service with a small number of patients waiting up to 12 months.

As an interim measure, while the active consultant recruitment campaign remains underway, CHI has arranged for a Consultant Anaesthesiologist in Northern Ireland, who specializes in both Paediatric and Adult Pain Management, to stand up weekly clinics for CHI at Crumlin and CHI at Temple Street since June 2020.

These weekly complex pain clinics take place in CHI at Connolly Urgent Care Centre and include the full Multidisciplinary Team.

Yours sincerely,

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**Joe Gannon**  
**Chief Operations Officer**  
**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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