



Children's Health Ireland  
6<sup>th</sup> May 2021

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

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

**PQ 14840/21**

"To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the fact that the pain relief outpatient waiting list reports as listed on the website of the National Treatment Purchase Fund, collates data on waiting lists for pain relief in the age-groups 0 to 15 and 16 to 64 years, despite the commitment by Children's Health Ireland to treat chronic pain patients up to 18 years of age; if he has concerns that this current age group breakdown makes it difficult to accurately ascertain the number of children up to 18 years of age who are currently awaiting pain relief; 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) has full visibility on the age of all children referred to the service and continues to treat chronic patients up to 18 years of age. The triaging process for the new service will allow children using the services to be triaged appropriately and subsequently added to the wait list.

The pain service at CHI is currently transitioning into a larger multi-disciplinary Team and new model of care\*. This transition will facilitate both patients previously linked with the service and new patients starting out with this service.

\*The Model of Care for Paediatric Anaesthesia (2015), developed by the National Clinical Programme for Anaesthesia and endorsed by the Irish Paediatric Anaesthesia Network, provides guidelines for the organisational structure and best practice model for a paediatric pain management service. CHI has been in the process of developing the structure to deliver this model over the first quarter of this year.

Yours sincerely,

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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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