



Children's Health Ireland

Stáinte 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

1st April 2021

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

PQ 16525/21

"To ask the Minister for Health the reasoning that led to the termination of the gender-identity adolescent service in Crumlin Children's Hospital; 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.

For young people under the age of 16 years, once assessments were made by Tavistock, a referral would be made to the Paediatric Endocrinology Service in CHI at Crumlin for hormonal treatment if appropriate. The recent High Court of Justice in England judgement of Bell v Tavistock December 2020 found that a child under 16 may only consent to the use of medication intended to suppress puberty where he or she is competent to understand the nature of the treatment. Tavistock has put a temporary suspension to the referral of children/adolescents under the age of 16 years pending a High Court appeal.

CHI Crumlin continue to care for a number of patients who have been seen in Tavistock who were subsequently referred to a Consultant Endocrinologist in Crumlin.

The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) service are also progressing with the appointment of a Consultant Psychiatrist with a special interest in Gender Identity as part of the new proposed service development that will allow for the whole patient journey to remain in Ireland.

Yours sincerely,

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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