



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

10th May 2021

Deputy Thomas Pringle,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 23237/21

"To ask the Minister for Health the number of children waiting over four months for a scoliosis operation; the number of children waiting over 12 months for a scoliosis operation; and if he will make a statement on the matter".

Dear Deputy Pringle,

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

CHI sincerely regret that children and their families are experiencing long waiting times for their appointments.

CHI continue to actively monitor scoliosis-waiting times for surgery and proactively continue to work with the HSE and DoH to reduce waiting times for patients attending the service. As part of the 2021 National Service Plan, CHI has submitted proposals to the HSE for a number of initiatives which include the potential for further patients to be transferred to Cappagh Hospital for non-complex elective surgeries and outsourcing spinal patients to private providers.

Funding has been provided by the HSE for additional paediatric orthopaedic clinics at Cappagh Orthopaedic Hospital and additional outpatient clinics commenced on the 17th February. Additional theatre capacity at Cappagh Orthopaedic hospital commenced on the 26th April for day case surgery in the first phase. This should result in a significant positive impact in reducing long waiting times for general orthopaedics in addition to consequential capacity gains for scoliosis 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

Board Members: Prof James Browne (Chairman), Prof Niamh Brennan, Mr Con Cronin, Ms Mary Cryan, Mr Liam Dowdall, Prof Martin Elliott, Ms Catherine Guy, Dr Anne Kilgallen, Dr Gavin Lavery, Ms Brigid McManus, Mr Turlough O'Sullivan, Mr Sean Sheehan



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CHI continue in partnership with the clinicians and all other stakeholders, the plan for 2021 is to drive further progress in reducing waiting times by developing a sustainable model which will ensure that clinical criteria will determine the timeframe for the delivery of care.

Representatives of CHI, the Orthopaedic Spinal Team and the Advocacy Groups continue to meet in a co-design fashion on a quarterly basis. This continues to be an extremely productive and forward thinking group who work on providing solutions for patients in the spinal service

Attached is the Bi- Weekly Scoliosis Update Report as at 23rd April 2021 for your information.

Yours sincerely,

Joe Gannon
Chief Operations Officer
Children's Health Ireland
Email: joe.gannon@nchg.ie

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Dedicated Line for Parents

Both CHI at Crumlin and CHI at Temple Street have a dedicated line in place for parents only to deal with queries in relation to their child's scoliosis care plan.

Total Surgeries (including single and multiple stages) performed as of 23rd April 2021

Week Ending 23/04/2021	CHI at Crumlin	CHI at Temple Street	Cappagh Hospital	Total
Number of Spinal Fusion YTD	41	9	15	65
Number of Other Spinal Procedures YTD	39	25	3	67
Total	80	34	18	132

CHI at Temple Street

Tel: 01 878 5596
Mon – Fri: 9.00am – 12.00 noon

CHI at Crumlin

Tel: 01 409 6877
Mon – Fri: 9.00am – 12.00 noon

Total number of patients on waiting lists clinically deemed as requiring surgery as of 23rd April 2021

Week Ending 23/04/2021	Number of patients on waiting list waiting for scoliosis related surgeries Includes active, pre-admit and planned procedures (excluding suspensions*)	
	Number waiting for Spinal Fusion	Number waiting for other spinal procedures
CHI at Crumlin	85	48
CHI at Temple Street	27	27
Cappagh Hospital	9	0
Total	121	75

- Suspensions are patients temporarily unavailable due to clinical or family reasons

