



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

Our Ref: PQ/23547

15 July 2021

Deputy Denis Naughten
Dáil Eireann
Dublin 2

Dear Deputy Naughten

I refer to your recent PQ which has have been forwarded to me for attention.

I wish to apologise for the long delay in responding, which was due to the recent cyber attack and for any inconvenience this may have caused you.

PQ

To ask the Minister for Health his views on reports that seriously ill children are being put at risk by being transported abroad for treatment on extra-corporeal membrane oxygenation machines which are already available in Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Children's Health Ireland (CHI) Response

CHI at Crumlin is funded to carry out ECLS (ECMO) for pre and post operative paediatric cardiac patients and other children with critical heart disease. Since the inception of the All Island Congenital Heart Network, this service is available for all paediatric cardiac patients on the island of Ireland.

ECLS for newborns and infants with critical respiratory disease is not provided at CHI at Crumlin, or indeed anywhere in the Republic of Ireland. Although the ECLS equipment for respiratory disease is similar to the ECLS equipment used for paediatric heart disease, the techniques and personnel required are different. For this reason, newborns and infants with critical respiratory disease and who may require ECLS, are transferred to Sweden or the UK.

CHI is currently working on a business plan to train and fund a team to provide a respiratory ECLS service.

I trust this is of assistance to you.

Your sincerely

Blathnaid Connolly
Directorate Operations Lead, CD B
(on behalf of Joe Gannon, Chief Operations Officer)
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