



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: PQ41648/21

9 September 2021

Deputy Rose Conway Walsh TD
Dáil Éireann
Dublin 2

Dear Deputy Rose Conway Walsh

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

PQ

To ask the Minister for Health if the national children's hospital will have any genome research facilities; if so, the details of the planned facilities and the future services; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

CHI can advise you that there are plans to develop a Children's Research and Innovation Centre (CRIC) on the campus shared with St James's Hospital that will support paediatric research across all specialities, some of which will have a genomic basis, for example, research into genetic pre-disposition to cancer in children. Genomic research (research involving the genetic basis of disease) is widespread internationally and becoming more and more central to our understanding of and treatments for human disease. Research into Rare Diseases is particularly important in children's healthcare. All research studies based in CHI will be assessed by CHI's Research and Innovation Office and CHI's Research Ethics Committee (or National Research Ethics Committee) before approved to proceed. There are no plans to develop a specific genomics research facility (a facility exclusively dedicated to gene sequencing) in the new children's hospital.

I trust this is of assistance to you.

Your sincerely

Joe Gannon
Chief Operations Officer
Email: joe.gannon@nchq.ie