



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 44850/21

19 October 2021

Deputy Ged Nash
Dáil Éireann
Dublin 2

Dear Deputy Nash

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

PQ

To ask the Minister for Health when ocular prosthesis services provided through Temple Street Children's University Hospital will be available in Ireland again; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Children's Health Ireland (CHI) Response

I wish to advise that I have followed up with CHI at Temple Street. They have advised that there is no prosthetic service in Ireland for adults or children. The service is out-sourced by the HSE to the United Kingdom to private Ocularists. The Ocularist attends the hospital to review the patient and makes the mould which is then sent back to the Laboratory in the UK. To fit the ocular prosthesis requires three visits for each patient with the prosthesis traveling back and forth between the UK for fittings.

During COVID-19 the Ocularist could not attend the hospital due to travel restrictions. Since the UK has now left the EU, the process of importing and exporting each prosthesis on multiple occasions is the reason the service is currently not operational. The Ocularist team recently attended CHI at Temple Street but unfortunately until the import and export process is resolved, a return date cannot be finalised and clinics cannot resume.



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Your sincerely

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Our **Mission** is to: Promote and provide child-centred, research-led and learning informed healthcare, to the highest standards of safety and excellence. We will do this in partnership with each other, with children, young people and their families through a network of children's services in Ireland.
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