



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 62935/22

19<sup>th</sup> December 2022

**Deputy Darren O'Rourke**  
**Dáil Eireann**  
**Dublin 2**

Dear Deputy O'Rourke

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

**PQ 62935/22: To ask the Minister for Health if the new National Children's Hospital will have the capacity and specialist staff to carry out heart and lung transplants for children aged under 16 years.**

**Children's Health Ireland (CHI) Response:**

**Children Undergoing Cardiac Transplants in the UK 2014-2021**

Hearts transplanted							
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
3	1	1	1	3	2	4	3

Children's Health Ireland (CHI) can advise that the setting up of a transplant centre would require additional key resources in CHI. At present resources for cardiothoracic surgery at CHI at Crumlin are for congenital heart disease. If a paediatric heart transplant programme was to be set up then additional resources, for emergency, out of hours' surgery would be required.

The availability of donor organs is at least dependent on the size of the potential donor pool and on organ size for paediatric patients. This is a critical point because the Republic of Ireland is in a shared programme with the United Kingdom, Republic of Ireland children have greater access to donor organs. If the Republic of Ireland separated completely into its own programme there would as a consequence have less donor availability.

It is not intended for CHI to carry out heart/lung transplantation in the new children's hospital due to the organ donation challenge of not being part of the UK donor system but this can be kept under review.

The vast majority of heart transplants have been carried out in one centre in the UK, mainly Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, London. This has allowed a very close



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professional working relationship between the two institutions to the benefit of the patients who have to undergo cardiac transplantation. There is excellent Multi-Disciplinary Team working between Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, London and Children's Health Ireland at Crumlin.

Yours sincerely

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**Chief Operations Officer**

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