

Our Ref: PQ/1314/22

11th February 2022

Deputy Charles Flanagan
Dáil Eireann
Dublin 2

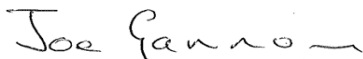
RE: *To ask the Minister for Health the steps he is taking to ensure services and treatment of children with spina bifida and or hydrocephalus are sufficient to their needs; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

Dear Deputy Flanagan

To address the long waiting times for surgery CHI has developed specific proposals for HSE funding approval from the Access to Care fund to increase capacity at both Crumlin and Temple Street and to expand paediatric orthopaedic services at Cappagh. We secured funding for an additional theatre at CHI at Temple St which will provide additional operating capacity to reduce surgical waits including for spina bifida. We are recruiting to a currently vacant Consultant Surgeon post which will also support additional surgical capacity. The HSE service plan will contain detail on what other funding proposals have been accepted.

With this additional capacity in place we are confident we will be able to improve the waiting times for children with spina bifida and have prioritised this as part of our operational plans for 2022.

Yours sincerely



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