



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/40296/22

31st August 2022

Deputy Paul Murphy
Dáil Eireann
Dublin 2

Dear Deputy Murphy

I refer to your PQ which has been forwarded to me for attention. Please accept my sincere apologies for the delay in issuing a response.

PQ 40296: To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to a condition called PANS (details supplied) and the fact that there are two PANS knowledgeable general practitioner specialists in Ireland but no consultants, meaning that persons have to travel abroad to access a consultant level of care; if he will ensure that there are PANS consultants available to patients in Ireland; if he will ensure that these costs are reimbursed for those who have to travel; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Children's Health Ireland (CHI) Response

Firstly, please see attached PQ 40295 22 for reference as response assists with below.

I have followed up with the Infectious Diseases department at Children's Health Ireland (CHI) at Crumlin and to the best of our knowledge, there is no consultant-led service specifically for children given the clinical diagnosis of Paediatric Acute-onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome (PANS) in Ireland.

Although infection is thought by some to be among the potential triggers for PANS, PANS is generally considered a non-infectious condition. Children and adolescents given a diagnosis of PANS are most often cared for by paediatricians with an interest in chronic fatigue or training and expertise in adolescent medicine, neurology or psychiatry.

To date, in the absence of funding and resources, a paediatric consultant-led service for paediatric long-COVID is not currently available at CHI.

The Rainbow Clinic National Paediatric Infectious Diseases and Immunology Centre at CHI provides advice to paediatricians where questions arise regarding testing to exclude an acute infectious process.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.



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Yours 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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