



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 31085/22

14th June 2022

Deputy Colm Burke
Dáil Eireann
Dublin 2

Dear Deputy Burke

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

PQ: To ask the Minister for Health if consideration will be given to locating a national genomics hub outside of Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin given that the current location is causing difficulties in treating adult patients who make up the majority of patients attending the clinic; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Children's Health Ireland (CHI) Response:

The Smith Report (2015) recommended a genetic and genomics network of services and the HSE are currently planning this approach for genetic and genomic services for Ireland.

Currently, Children's Health Ireland provide out-reach services as part of their service arrangement for genetics.

Diagnosis of a rare disease is a primary reason for seeking genetic and genomic intervention and counselling, and most rare diseases are diagnosed in childhood. If a child is diagnosed with a rare disease, then this involves parents and siblings also being considered for testing and counselling. The use of genomic medicine to treat other diseases, like cancer, is increasing in both adult and paediatric services. Therefore, genetic and genomic services are central to acute paediatric services.

I trust this is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

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