



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Rannan na nOspideil Ghearmhíochaine
Aonad 4A – Áras Dargan
An Ceantar Theas
An Bothar Mileata
Cill Mhaighneann
BÁC 8

Acute Operations
Health Service Executive
Unit 4A - The Dargan Building
Heuston South Quarter
Military Road
Kilmainham
Dublin 8.

4th May 2022

Deputy David Cullinane
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2.

PQ 12740/22 *To ask the Minister for Health the breakdown of all additional revenue funding made available for paediatric orthopaedic care for 2022, in tabular form by permanent or baseline funding or temporary one-off funding; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

PQ 12737/22 *To ask the Minister for Health the funded and available or additional MRI capacity due to come on stream for paediatric orthopaedics up to the year-end 2022.*

PQ 12321/22 *To ask the Minister for Health the status of the new Children's Health Ireland MRI and associated staffing, works and leasing arrangements; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

PQ 12324/22 *To ask the Minister for Health if he will outline further details of the radiology outsourcing valued at €0.64 million which is part of his paediatric orthopaedics plan; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

PQ 12320/22 *To ask the Minister for Health if the 24 additional beds and two additional high dependency unit beds provided for Children's Health Ireland in Budget 2021 are fully staffed and operational; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

PQ 12323/22 *To ask the Minister for Health if he will outline further details of a tender (details supplied) valued at €1.5 million which is part of his paediatric orthopaedics plan; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

PQ 12738/22 *To ask the Minister for Health the way he intends to expand and reconfigure outpatient cases and additional active clinical triage for paediatric orthopaedics; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions', which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. It is proposed to provide a composite response to the issues raised. I apologise for the delay in responding you.

The table below sets out the additional revenue funding made available for paediatric orthopaedics in 2022 and the associated full year expected costs. It is important to note that this funding will support r all long waiting specialities within CHI including additional supports for Orthopaedics. Capital funding made available to support additional infrastructural initiatives is not set out below.

REVENUE COSTS	2022 funding (Part year) €m	Full Year €m
Theatre Expansion / Orthopaedic	3.00	5.40
Additional MRI Staffing	0.65	2.35
National Orthopaedic Hospital Cappagh (funding allocated to the Ireland East Hospitals Group)	3.40	3.40
IPDC Tender	1.50	1.50
TOTAL COSTS	8.55	12.65

CHI at Temple St expect to open a new MRI in June 2022, replacing the current model. An additional MRI scanner is then expected to be commissioned in January 2023.

CHI at Crumlin expect to commission an additional MRI in quarter 4 2022 and this is expected to be fully operational in January 2023. This will be under a lease arrangement for 4 years at a cost of €2m (revenue of €0.50m annually until the new children's hospital opens).

In recognition of the requirement to support diagnostic capacity in the short term CHI have engaged a number of private providers through a tender process completed in 2019. This facilitates access to Ultrasound and MRI diagnostics for patients. In addition, an arrangements are now in place with National Orthopaedic Hospital Cappagh who are supporting CHI with access to musculoskeletal MRIs. However, there remains challenges in terms of access to MRIs requiring General Anaesthetic and/or contrast which no private provider can currently enable. It is estimated that over 2,000 additional ultrasounds and in excess of 700 MRIs can be provided over a 9 month period through these streams.

In relation to additional bed capacity CHI opened the two additional high dependency unit beds in October 2020. CHI also opened an additional two neonatal beds in April 2021. CHI have opened four of the twenty-four additional inpatient beds. The remainder of the beds are due to open in Quarter 2 & Quarter 4, 2022 subject to staffing.

CHI has tendered for additional orthopaedic activity for a range of paediatric orthopaedic procedures from the private sector. This tender process is now complete with the contract awarded to a private provider. The volume and type of procedures completed under this process will depend on theatre and staffing availability by the private provider which will be planned every 6 weeks throughout 2022.

There will be additional OPD drives using new investment and space in Children's Health Ireland and National Orthopaedic Hospital Cappagh. In addition, CHI have been leading the way in terms of implementing an Active Clinical Trial Model across a number of specialties including Orthopaedics and this will continue for both new and review patients throughout 2022. A key dependency here is the relaxation of COVID restrictions across CHI sites for which there is a structured risk review process in place. In addition, CHI are examining options to engage private organisations to facilitate support for cross-specialty out-patient clinics outside of core business hours which will support additional throughput across all sites.

I trust that this answers your question.

Yours sincerely,



Robert Kidd
Assistant National Director
Acute Operations