



**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/54562/22

30<sup>th</sup> November 2022

**Deputy Jennifer Whitmore**  
**Dáil Eireann**  
**Dublin 2**

Dear Deputy Whitmore

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

**PQ: To ask the Minister for Health the number of operations for scoliosis treatments in the CHI that have been cancelled by hospital on a monthly basis to date in 2022; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

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

I have followed up with Childrens Health Ireland (CHI) at Crumlin and Temple Street and set out here-under the information which you require. Please see accompanying notes below table.

The decision to cancel or change any procedure or surgery is not taken lightly, and is made in conjunction with the clinical team and management.

**Operations for scoliosis treatments at CHI that have been cancelled by the hospital**

2022	CHI at Crumlin*	CHI at Temple Street**
January – Spinal Fusion	9	1
January – Spinal Other	0	2
February – Spinal Fusion	6	2
February – Spinal Other	5	0
March – Spinal Fusion	3	0
March – Spinal Other	3	1
April – Spinal Fusion	5	0
April – Spinal Other	2	0
May – Spinal Fusion	4	0
May – Spinal Other	0	0
June – Spinal Fusion	8	0
June – Spinal other	0	0
July – Spinal Fusion	7	0
July – Spinal Other	0	0
August – Spinal Fusion	3	2
August – Spinal Other	1	0
September – Spinal Fusion	3	5



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September – Spinal Other	0	0
October – Spinal Fusion	5	2
October – Spinal Other	2	1
Totals	66	16

### **CHI at Crumlin**

\*Please note that data includes Spinal Fusion and Spinal Other Theatre attendances only. This data does not include day case cancellations i.e. scoliosis assessments.

This data does not include patients categorised as "Not specified". "Not specified" patients are those who do not have a local category assigned to them on the system i.e spinal, DDH, foot & ankle, general etc.

### **CHI at Temple Street**

\*\*Please note that other spinal surgeries were cancelled that are not included here. These surgeries were cancelled due to the patient being unwell or not clinically suitable for surgery at the time of surgery.

A post COVID-19 surge in referrals to hospitals was expected but numbers could not be predicted. In CHI at Crumlin and CHI at Temple Street there has been a 33 per cent increase in referral numbers for Spinal Fusions in 2022 compared to 2019 (increased from 164 to 218). Despite this increase in referrals and resulting increase in the numbers on the waiting list, more children are being treated and waiting times are coming down.

Yours sincerely

**Joe Gannon**  
**Chief Operations Officer**  
Email: [joe.gannon@nchg.ie](mailto:joe.gannon@nchg.ie)