



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/42598/22

23<sup>rd</sup> September 2022

**Deputy Verona Murphy**  
**Dáil Eireann**  
**Dublin 2**

Dear Deputy Murphy

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

**PQ: To ask the Minister for Health the current number of paediatric patients in Ireland awaiting a general anaesthetic slot for an MRI; the average length of time spent on the waiting list for same; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

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

I have followed up with Children's Health Ireland (CHI) and can advise that as of the 14<sup>th</sup> of September 2022 the total number of patients waiting for an MRI under general anaesthetic is 951.

The average length of time spent on the waiting list for same is 17.8 months.

CHI at Temple Street are currently installing an additional MRI scanner. Construction and supply issues have delayed the handover of this scanner which is now expected in November 2022.

The existing scanner in CHI at Temple Street will be replaced in 2023. This will bring the MRI capacity in CHI at Temple Street back to current levels during the installation period. Once training and the replacement of the existing scanner have been completed this scanner will add capacity for an additional ~480 MRI scans under general anaesthetic per year.

In addition to the above, CHI at Crumlin are in the process of acquiring a leased customised paediatric MRI with an estimated date of completion of late November / early December 2022. External build works are underway and progress is currently on target.

The impact of this unit will be additional 'walk in' scan capacity of 1600 scans per year. This would allow the transfer of walk in patients from the existing MRI.

This release of capacity from the existing MRI, combined with increased staffing and support facilities would allow CHI at Crumlin to increase capacity for patients that require general



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anaesthetic and sedation for MRI, which would potentially allow for an additional number of anaesthetic and sedation scans per year of 570 scans.

Alongside the works for the external leased unit there are also plans underway to create a 2 Bed Recovery Bay Area in the Existing MRI/CT Department Footprint that will help facilitate the additional general anaesthetic capacity.

Yours sincerely

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**Joe Gannon**

**Chief Operations Officer**

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