



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/44279/22

27th September 2022

Deputy Roisin Shortall
Dáil Eireann
Dublin 2

Dear Deputy Shortall

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

PQ: To ask the Minister for Health the number of children awaiting scoliosis operations by time on list and by hospital; and the steps that he is taking to address this.

Children's Health Ireland (CHI) Response

I have followed up with Childrens Health Ireland (CHI) and the National Orthopaedic Hospital Cappagh and set out here-under the information you require.

Please note that figures show the total number of patients on waiting lists for spinal fusion or Spinal 'Other' who are clinically deemed as requiring surgery as of 26th August 2022 including suspensions.

Figures for 'Suspended' are patients showing as suspended from the waiting list as patient is deemed temporarily unavailable, clinically unsuitable or has a provisional date for outsourcing for their procedure. This includes all suspensions (hospital or patient initiated).

Spinal Fusion Waiting list for Temple Street

Spinal Fusion								
	0-3 Months	3-6 Months	6-9 Months	9-12 Months	12-15 Months	15-18 Months	18+ Months	Total
Active	7	4	5	1	3	4	0	24
TCI*	0	0	2	0	1	1	2	6
Suspended	0	0	1	1	0	0	3	5
Planned	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	7	4	8	2	4	5	5	35



Spinal other Waiting List for Temple Street

Spinal Other								
	0-3	3-6	6-9	9-12	12-15	15-18	18+	Total
	Months	Months	Months	Months	Months	Months	Months	
Active	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	4
TCI*	2	4	0	0	0	1	0	7
Suspended	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Planned	11	2	3	4	1	0	0	21
Total	14	8	4	4	1	1	0	32

Spinal Fusion Waiting list for Crumlin

Spinal Fusion								
	0-3	3-6	6-9	9-12	12-15	15-18	18+	Total
	Months	Months	Months	Months	Months	Months	Months	
Active	17	15	14	10	2	0	7	65
TCI*	0	0	1	3	2	0	1	7
Suspended	3	2	4	3	4	0	5	21
Planned	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Total	21	17	19	16	8	0	14	95

Spinal other Waiting List for Crumlin

Spinal Other								
	0-3	3-6	6-9	9-12	12-15	15-18	18+	Total
	Months	Months	Months	Months	Months	Months	Months	
Active	9	7	3	2	3	0	1	25
TCI*	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Suspended	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
Planned	17	11	12	4	0	0	0	44
Total	29	18	16	6	3	0	2	74

Spinal Fusion Waiting list Cappagh National Orthopaedic Hospital

Spinal Fusion								
	0-3	3-6	6-9	9-12	12-15	15-18	18+	Total
	Months	Months	Months	Months	Months	Months	Months	
Active	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TCI*	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Suspended	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Planned	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4



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Spinal 'Other' are not applicable to Cappagh National Orthopaedic Hospital at this time.

*TCI – a provisional date has been scheduled for the patient to come in to have their surgery.

In February of this year Children's Health Ireland (CHI) welcomed the announcement of funding approved from the Department of Health to bring down waiting times for access to children's services in CHI, with Scoliosis and Spina Bifida a priority focus within the Paediatric Orthopaedic specialty. The funding also supported a joint initiative with the National Orthopaedic Hospital Cappagh to substantially increase the clinically appropriate paediatric Orthopaedic Scoliosis and Spina Bifida work undertaken in the National Orthopaedic Hospital Cappagh.

The *Waiting List Scoliosis/Spina Bifida Action Plan* and funding was formally agreed with the HSE and Department of Health in April of this year. This plan covered Paediatric Orthopaedic services in CHI at Crumlin, CHI at Temple Street, the National Orthopaedic Hospital Cappagh and the Blackrock Clinic.

As at the end of August 2022, across these hospitals, 342 spinal procedures have been undertaken - 115 more surgeries when compared with 227 cases undertaken in the same period last year.

Progress has also been made with reducing the longest waiting times for scoliosis treatment:

- Reduction in the number of patients waiting over four months from 99 to 72 (27 per cent reduction since January 2022)
- Reduction in patients waiting over 12 months for surgery from 34 to 21 (38 per cent reduction since January 2022)
- The total spinal waiting list has reduced from 224 to 212 in the same period.
***Data period up to 26th of August 2022.**

Yours sincerely

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