



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/45453/22

5th October 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 efforts that he is taking to ensure that children with medically complex needs are not waiting in hospital for long periods of time to receive an MRI scan; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Children's Health Ireland (CHI) Response

Children's Health Ireland (CHI) at Crumlin are in the process of building a new Modular Paediatric MRI unit, which will provide additional MRI capacity for hospital. External build works for this new unit are currently underway and progress is on target. It is envisaged this will be completed and operational by late November / early December 2022.

The new unit will provide additional 'walk in' scan capacity for approximately 1,600 MRI scans per year. This will enable the transfer of walk in patients, who are currently scanned in the existing MRI in CHI at Crumlin, to be scanned in this new unit. The release of this capacity from the existing MRI, combined with the increased staffing and support facilities, will allow CHI at Crumlin to increase MRI capacity for patients who require general anaesthetic and sedation for MRI, which will allow for approximately 570 additional anaesthetic and sedation scans per year.

Alongside these works for the new external leased MRI 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.

In addition to the above, CHI at Temple Street are in the middle of a programme to replace the existing MRI scanner and install an additional MRI scanner, which is expected to be completed in the summer of 2023. This will release additional capacity which will improve access times for both inpatients and outpatients. We continue to prioritise in-patient scanning and make full use of outsourcing routine outpatient MRI scans to provide more capacity for in-patient and other urgent patients.



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It is important to note that the current shortage of Paediatric Radiology Consultants will not start to ease until March 2023, with additional Consultants coming into post between then and Q1 2024.

Yours sincerely

Joe Gannon

Chief Operations Officer

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