



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/47675/22

13<sup>th</sup> October 2022

**Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh**  
**Dáil Eireann**  
**Dublin 2**

Dear Deputy Ó Snodaigh

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

**PQ: To ask the Minister for Health the reason that there are no outpatient dietitian appointments in Our Lady's Children's Hospital Crumlin.**

**Childrens Health Ireland (CHI) Response:**

Childrens Health Ireland (CHI) at Crumlin currently have limited outpatient clinics. Priority is given to infants and young children under the age of 2 years who require tube feeding and nutritional support. This patient cohort undergo rapid growth and neurodevelopment, which is dependent on adequate nutrition. Many of these children are ex-inpatients with complex medical needs or children diagnosed with a chronic long term illness who attend speciality teams.

There have been significant periods of staff shortages/ vacancies over the last 2 years, at which time outpatient clinics have been reduced or postponed. Inpatient dietetic support was prioritised to acute or critically unwell infants and children.

Yours sincerely

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