



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

Ref: PQ 18066/23

19th May 2023

Deputy Paul Murphy
Dáil Eireann
Dublin 2

Dear Deputy Murphy

I refer to your recent parliamentary question which has been forwarded to me for attention. Firstly, please accept my apologies for the delay in issuing a response.

PQ 18066/23 - To ask the Minister for Health to provide the following information in relation to spinal surgeries performed on patients with spina bifida at Temple Street between 2018 and the end of 2022; the total number of surgeries; the number returned to theatre; the wound infection rate among patients; the rate of metalwork failure among patients; the overall complication rate; and to outline the documented process for discussing wound infection/repeat surgeries.

Children's Health Ireland (CHI) response:

Safeguarding and maintaining the highest possible levels of quality and child safety is the absolute priority for Children's Health Ireland and is in the best interest of the children and young people we treat.

In order to ensure we maintain good standards, safety and clinical outcomes in our service Children's Health Ireland has commissioned an external clinical review of the complex spinal surgeries carried out in Temple Street on children with spina bifida over the past 3 years.

The external clinical review involved expert clinicians in spinal surgery from Boston Children's Hospital. We await the outcome of the review and any recommendations it may have.

Yours sincerely

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