



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 12418/23 – PQ 12421/23, PQ 15964/23, PQ 15965/23, PQ 15967/23

31st March 2023

Deputy David Cullinane
Dáil Eireann
Dublin 2

Dear Deputy Cullinane

I refer to your PQ's listed below which have been forwarded to me for attention.

PQ 12418/23 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of children with scoliosis and the number of children with spina bifida on waiting lists for December 2022 and January and February 2019-2023, inclusive, by waiting list; the number of suspended cases, by specialty and by location, in tabular form; the number waiting 0-6, 6-12, 12-18, and 18+ months; and the average waiting time of all relevant patients on each list.

PQ 12419/23 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of children on paediatric orthopaedic waiting lists for December 2022 and January and February 2019-2023, inclusive, by waiting list; the number of suspended cases, by specialty and by location, in tabular form; the number waiting 0-6, 6-12, 12-18, and 18+ months; and the average waiting time of all relevant patients on each list.

PQ 12420/23 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of spinal fusion and other paediatric orthopaedic procedures carried out by Children's Health Ireland in each of the years 2017-2023, by month at each location, in tabular form; the number which have been outsourced; and the location at which they were conducted.

PQ 12421/23 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of children removed from paediatric orthopaedic waiting lists in November and December 2022 and January and February 2023, by reason for removal; the number removed without having a procedure; and the reason why.

PQ 15964/23 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of children with scoliosis and the number of children with spina bifida on waiting lists at the end of March 2019-2023, inclusive, and at the end of June, September, and December 2019-2022, by waiting list, including the number of suspended cases, by specialty and by location, in tabular form; the number waiting 0-6 months, 6-12 month, 12-18 months, and 18+ months; and the average waiting time of all relevant patients on each list.



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PQ 15965/23 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of children on paediatric orthopaedic waiting lists for March 2019-2023, inclusive, and at the end of June, September, and December 2019-2022, by waiting list, including the number of suspended cases, by specialty and by location, in tabular form; the number waiting 0-6 months, 6-12 month, 12-18 months, and 18+ months; and the average waiting time of all relevant patients on each list.

PQ 15967/23 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of children removed from paediatric orthopaedic waiting lists in January, February, and March 2023, by the reason for removal; the number removed without having a procedure carried out; and the reason.

On review of the above PQ's, Children's Health Ireland (CHI) have identified that the information requested is very similar in nature to information prepared and returned to you in January 2023 for PQ's 57769/22 – PQ 57781/22.

As advised in our response dated the 13th of January, given the significant amount of time and effort of numerous staff members, who need to prioritise direct service management, to collate the requested data, we are unable to accommodate this request.

The scoliosis waiting lists are available as required and the advocacy groups also have additional information.

It may be beneficial to set up a meeting to discuss further requests in order to understand the information requirements given the time and effort required to prepare responses. Also please note, that some of the requests are of the same or similar nature and the preparation of the responses is an added pressure to staff who are already working in extremely busy roles on a daily basis.

If you wish to set up a meeting to discuss this further, please contact me directly at the below email address.

Yours sincerely

Fiona Murphy
Deputy CEO/Operations Director
Email: fiona.murphy30@nchq.ie