



Ref: PQ 46293/23

20th March 2024

Deputy Cian O'Callaghan
Dáil Eireann
Dublin 2

Dear Deputy O'Callaghan

I refer to your below parliamentary question which has been forwarded to me for attention.

PQ 46293/23 – To ask the Minister for Health if he is aware that Crumlin Children's Hospital currently only has two modern ultrasound machines, when it needs four in the radiography, radiology and ultrasound department; if he is aware that there is a lack of Trophon machines in the hospital; when the necessary funding will be provided for this equipment; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Children's Health Ireland (CHI) Response:

Children's Health Ireland (CHI) can advise that CHI at Crumlin Radiology have been allocated funding to have two of their three existing diagnostic ultrasound machines replaced under the HSE equipment replacement program as these are older units which are no longer clinically fit for purpose. The draft order is now with the HSE for final approval. Funding for one additional diagnostic and one additional portable machine has been approved in principle via The Children's Health Foundation. We are awaiting final approval and an order will then be placed immediately.

Any replacement or new equipment would be used immediately.

A new portable ultrasound machine which CHI at Crumlin received from the HSE equipment replacement program is being used in one of the Ultrasound Rooms, when it is not required for portable (bedside) ultrasound for our sickest patients.

CHI can advise that there are currently no Trophon machines in the CHI at Crumlin Ultrasound department. These systems are widely used elsewhere including CHI at Temple Street and improve efficiency, traceability and reduce the risk of infection.

In March 2023 Clinical Engineering applied to the Grant Advisory Panel (GAP) for 6x Trophon Ultrasound Probe Automated Disinfection Machine but were not successful. A new application will be submitted for May 2024, either as a single submission or as part of a wider CHI at Crumlin site submission.

Sláinte Leanaí Éireann



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

Despite the Radiology department at CHI at Crumlin currently operating at a 20% vacancy rate for Radiographers, we have committed 3 WTE Sonographers to Ultrasound 5 days per week where this is feasible.

CHI at Crumlin Radiology is also intending to send another Radiographer to undertake the Ultrasound Masters Course (UCD) in September 2024 to increase our Sonographer cohort. We have also sought additional Radiologist and Registrar cover to best maximise our ability to deliver the Ultrasound service.

Yours sincerely

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Clinical Director
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Our **Mission** is to: Promote and provide child-centred, research-led and learning informed healthcare, to the highest standards of safety and excellence. We will do this in partnership with each other, with children, young people and their families through a network of children's services in Ireland.

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