



Ref: PQ 15587/24

2nd May 2024

Deputy Duncan Smith
Dáil Eireann
Dublin 2

Dear Deputy Smith

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

PQ 15587/24 – To ask the Minister for Health if clinical posts are vacant in the cancer genetics department of CHI at Crumlin; the optimum staffing allocation levels for each position; the length of time that these posts have been vacant; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Children's Health Ireland (CHI) Response:

The Department of Clinical Genetics at Children's Health Ireland (CHI) at Crumlin provides a comprehensive genetic and genomic medicine service for all Rare Disease including assessing those for inherited cancer predisposition syndromes (diagnostic and predictive). The service is offered to all patients throughout their life time (including prenatal testing and reproductive choices).

Currently there are 5 WTE Genetic Counsellor posts vacant in CHI, 4 since 2023, and 1 since 2024. Recruitment into vacant Genetic Counsellor posts is impacted by the ongoing HSE recruitment embargo.

There are 7 WTE Consultant Geneticist posts funded in CHI. This includes 1 WTE vacant Consultant Geneticist post which has been accepted and a start date is awaited imminently. A further consultant post is due for advertisement in the near future. Internationally it is recommended that there are 3 Consultant Geneticists per million population (RCP UK, 2013), with staffing in Ireland falling below recommended levels.

Yours sincerely

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