



Ref: PQ 9455/24

15th March 2024

Deputy Colm Burke
Dáil Eireann
Dublin 2

Dear Deputy Burke

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

PQ 9455/24 – To ask the Minister for Health the number of children waiting on obesity clinic appointments, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Children's Health Ireland (CHI) Response:

A pilot Child and Adolescent Obesity Service in Temple Street Children's University Hospital was initiated in 2005 as a response to increasing health problems associated with paediatric obesity. In 2022 in line with the HSE Model of Care for the Management of Overweight and Obesity, dedicated funding was allocated to expand the service and to establish the CHI Child and Adolescent Obesity Service. In 2023, the Service received partial funding from the 2022 allocation. The Service provides holistic assessment and evidence-based management for children and adolescents diagnosed with obesity-related complications (BMI>99th centile plus complications). The Service is delivered by a multidisciplinary team *however service delivery, quality and equity are currently challenged by the HSE staff embargo.*

Number of children (new referrals) waiting on obesity appointments as of 12/03/2024	
CHI Complex Obesity Service New Patients*	90
MDT clinic appointment (New Patients)**	221
MDT clinic appointment (Review Patients)	400

*new patients with complex obesity waiting to see the CHI Obesity consultant.

**Patients new to the obesity service who have been referred by a CHI-based consultant.

Children with obesity and related physical complications may also be referred into other CHI tertiary specialists including endocrinology, respiratory medicine, orthopaedics, hepatology and neurology. As such, the number above relates only to those referred to the obesity service specifically and does not include those children with obesity on other CHI specialist waiting lists.

Sláinte Leanaí Éireann



Children's Health Ireland

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Yours sincerely

Sharon Ryan
Directorate Operations Lead CDA

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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