



Ref: PQ 1472/24

11th April 2024

Deputy David Cullinane
Dáil Eireann
Dublin 2

Dear Deputy Cullinane

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

PQ 1472/24 – To ask the Minister for Health the number of children who had presented at Children's Health Ireland emergency departments in 2023, by hospital, who were subsequently discharged to no fixed address, in tabular form.

Children's Health Ireland (CHI) Response:

Your office kindly clarified via email on the 18th of January that for the purpose of this PQ you are seeking information on the number of children who presented at Children's Health Ireland (CHI) emergency departments in 2023 discharged to:

- No fixed abode (i.e. children discharged to no address)
- Emergency accommodation
- Women's refuge
- Other temporary residence
- Direct Provision accommodation

I have liaised with key colleagues and unfortunately we are not in a position to provide the data you require in the format requested. The reason for this is that the nature of homelessness is not always evident at the time of presentation in our emergency departments and without clear knowledge of emergency accommodation addresses it is not possible to collect accurate data.

For example, a parent might give an address which could be that of emergency accommodation, but it takes someone with knowledge of this to recognise the patient as homeless if only the address is given.

It is of importance to note that no child would knowingly be discharged from the Emergency department at CHI to no fixed abode.

I can advise that work is being done across CHI sites to develop a strategy on accurately capturing this data going forward.

Sláinte Leanaí Éireann



Children's Health Ireland

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Yours sincerely

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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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