



Ref: PQ 15445/25

31st March 2025

Deputy Claire Kerrane
Dáil Eireann
Dublin 2

Dear Deputy Kerrane

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

PQ 15445/25 – To ask the Minister for Health the timeline for completion of the audit the clinical audit to look at a sample of Developmental Dysplasia of the Hip (DDH) surgeries preformed between 2021-2023 in CHI Crumlin, Temple Street, and the National Orthopaedic Hospital which is underway; the information that will be provided to parents whose children had DDH surgery who have received letters informing them of the audit; when parents will be informed; if parents will be advised whether surgery on their child should have proceeded; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Children's Health Ireland (CHI) Response:

Children's Health Ireland (CHI) and the National Orthopaedic Hospital Cappagh (NOHC) confirmed in July 2024 that they would undertake a joint clinical audit to look at a random and anonymised sample of DDH surgeries performed during the 2021-2023 period, after a concern was reported that the threshold criteria being used for surgical intervention in relation to DDH may have been different across CHI sites and NOHC. The audit is being conducted by a UK paediatric orthopaedic consultant with specialist expertise in this area.

The audit is not yet complete, and so we cannot provide any details of its findings, and we cannot comment on any media reports in relation to the audit, as to do so would undermine the integrity of the audit process.

We will ensure our patients, and their families are kept informed as we move through this process, and will share findings of the audit once completed. In the meantime, we will be corresponding with families as appropriate.

CHI and NOHC are committed to improving access to quality care across our services and regularly undertake quality assurance checks in line with HSE standards.

Children's Health Ireland at Connolly | Crumlin | Tallaght | Temple Street

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.

CRA Registered Charity Number (RCN): 20202295 **Revenue Charitable Status CHY:** 22235

Board Members: Prof James Browne (Chairman), Ms Mary Cryan, Ms Mary Donovan, Ms Catherine Guy, Dr Gavin Lavery, Ms Brigid McManus, Ms Eleanor O'Neill

Sláinte Leanaí Éireann



Children's Health Ireland

Sláinte Leanaí Éireann (SLÉ), Herberton, Siúlán San Séamas, Rialto, D08 HP97, Éire
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Yours sincerely

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