

By email to: david.cullinane@oireachtas.ie

24th April 2025

Mr. David Cullinane T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Re: Parliamentary Question 17573/25 *“To ask the Minister for Health the dates on which parents/guardians of children who had pelvic osteotomies at the National Orthopaedic Hospital Cappagh were contacted regarding the draft audit of pelvic osteotomies which had been conducted; the number of children who were informed and the number of letters issues; the earliest year to which a relevant surgery relates; the number of surgeries involved, by year, in tabular form.”*

Re: Parliamentary Question 17575/25 *“To ask the Minister for Health the number of pelvic osteotomies conducted on children for development dysplasia of the hip at National Orthopaedic Hospital Cappagh in each year 2014-2024 in tabular form; the number conducted to date in 2025; and the total number conducted in each year by consultant.”*

Re: Parliamentary Question 17577/25 *“To ask the Minister for Health if pelvic osteotomies were suspended at National Orthopaedic Hospital Cappagh in 2023, 2024, or 2025; if so, when and the reason; if it affected multiple consultants; the reason which affected patients were informed of; the manner in which they were informed; the date on which they were informed; if such surgeries were ever suspended due to a protected disclosure or a clinical audit; and if so, when.”*

Re: Parliamentary Question 17588/25 *“To ask the Minister for Health when it was decided that National Orthopaedic Hospital Cappagh would permit an audit of pelvic osteotomies conducted on children for development dysplasia of the hip and who made this decision; if NOHC informed the HSE, the Department of Health, the Minister for Health or Minister's Office; and if so who and when.”*

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

HSE Dublin and North East has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. Having reviewed the matter, the following outlines the position.

Children's Health Ireland (CHI) and the National Orthopaedic Hospital Cappagh (NOHC) confirmed in July 2024 that it would undertake a joint clinical audit to look at a random and anonymised sample of developmental dysplasia of the hip (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.

Please see table below detailing the number of Pelvic Osteotomy surgeries from 2021 to date:

Year	Surgeries
2021	54
2022	199
2023	169
2024	93
2025	3
Total	518

To note, no children were operated on in NOHC prior to 2021 when NOHC commenced the service to support long waiting lists in CHI.

502 letters issued to families on 19th March 2025 relating to 503 patients aged 1 – 7 years (one letter related to two children) from 2021 – 2025.

CHI and NOHC have not stopped performing pelvic osteotomies. All children who require pelvic osteotomies will have their case discussed at a pre-operative cross site multidisciplinary team meeting.

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

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

June Molloy
Communications and Public Affairs Manager
HSE Dublin and North East
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