



Refs: PQ 17570/25, PQ 17571/25, PQ 17572/25, PQ 17586/25, PQ 17587/25, PQ 17589/25, PQ 17597/25

28th April 2025

Deputy David Cullinane
Dáil Eireann
Dublin 2

Dear Deputy Cullinane

I refer to your parliamentary questions below which have been forwarded to me for attention.

PQ 17570/25 – To ask the Minister for Health the reason it took until March 2025 to notify parents of serious concerns at Children's Health Ireland and National Orthopaedic Hospital Cappagh regarding pelvic osteotomies when the Department was aware of a protected disclosure as early as 9 May 2024; and the reason surgeries were continuing in 2025 if they were not suspended.

PQ 17571/25 – To ask the Minister for Health if parents and guardians were informed of the clinical audit or protected disclosure relating to pelvic osteotomies at Children's Health Ireland prior to March 2025.

PQ 17572/25 – To ask the Minister for Health the dates on which parents/guardians of children who had pelvic osteotomies at Children's Health Ireland 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 issued; the earliest year to which a relevant surgery relates; and the number of surgeries involved, by year in tabular form.

PQ 17586/25 – To ask the Minister for Health who decided that there should be a clinical audit of pelvic osteotomies conducted on children for development dysplasia of the hip across Children's Health Ireland and National Orthopaedic Hospital Cappagh for cases in 2021 to 2023; when this decision was made; and whether it was communicated to the Department or the Minister.

PQ 17587/25 – To ask the Minister for Health when it was decided that Children's Health Ireland would permit an audit of pelvic osteotomies conducted on children for development dysplasia of the hip and who made this decision; if CHI informed the HSE, the Department of Health, the Minister for Health or Minister's Office; and if so who and when.

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



PQ 17589/25 – To ask the Minister for Health the date on which the audit of pelvic osteotomies conducted on children for development dysplasia of the hip at several Dublin hospitals commenced; the timeframe of work; and the date on which the draft report was first shared for review.

PQ 17597/25 – To ask the Minister for Health if a decision was made, and if so by whom, to contact parents-guardians of children who had pelvic osteotomies under the care of Children's Health Ireland or National Orthopaedic Hospital Cappagh beyond the years 2021-2023; either way for parents-guardians contacted, the years concerned, the number of children concerned, and the number of surgeries of concern by year, in tabular form.

Children's Health Ireland (CHI) Response:

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 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 undertakes quality assurance checks in line with HSE standards.

Sláinte Leanaí Éireann



Children's Health Ireland

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Yours sincerely

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