



Ref: PQ 18830/25

28<sup>th</sup> April 2025

**Deputy Duncan Smith**  
**Dáil Eireann**  
**Dublin 2**

Dear Deputy Smith

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

**PQ 18830/25 – To ask the Minister for Health to clarify the extent to which parents who declined surgery were included in the CHI audit on hip dysplasia; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Duncan Smith**

**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.

**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

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Yours sincerely

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