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South Infirmary - Victoria University Hospital **Ollscoil Ospidéal Otharlann an Deiscirt-Victoria**

A Teaching Hospital of University College, Cork.

13th May 2025

John Lahart TD

Re: Question No 19707/25

*** To ask the Minister for Health the current average wait time for scoliosis-related orthopaedic appointments at Cork University Hospital; if the hospital is following its own published guidance around early intervention and regular monitoring in mild scoliosis cases; the steps being taken to ensure that children in rapid growth phases receive timely care; and if she will make a statement on the matter**

Dear Deputy Lahart,

The Health Service Executive 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.

We have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

There are currently 32 suspected scoliosis patients on our Orthopaedic outpatient waiting list at the South Infirmary-Victoria University Hospital. These are new patients, there is a separate cohort of patients which are managed by our Orthopaedic Consultants with a special interest in Paediatrics. For any surgical intervention these patients are referred to CHI, Dublin.

The average wait times for these patients can be up to 12 months. The hospital is working within the resources available to them at this time and all patients are seen based on clinical need as triaged by the Consultant.

I trust that this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Helen Donovan
Chief Executive Officer