



Ref: PQ 8814/25

11th June 2025

Deputy Grace Boland

Dáil Eireann

Dublin 2

Dear Deputy Boland

I refer to your parliamentary question below which has been forwarded to me for attention. Firstly, please accept my apologies for the delay in issuing a response.

PQ 8814/25 – To ask the Minister for Health the plans her Department is working on for the expansion of the paediatric services offered in Connolly Hospital; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Children's Health Ireland (CHI) Response:

Children's Health Ireland (CHI) are responsible for planning and service development of CHI services.

Upon opening in 2019, due to resources and contract restrictions the opening hours of the Urgent Care Centre (UCC) for patients was Monday to Friday between 10:00-17:00. Following a review of the morning attendance times and discussions the opening hours extended to patients from 09:00-17:00.

The UCC at CHI at Connolly has since extended its opening hours and it is operating at a full level of service. The opening hours at CHI at Connolly are 9am – 5pm Monday – Friday and 10am – 5pm Saturday, Sunday and public holidays.

The current opening hours in the UCC have resulted in the unit exceeding its target of 25,000 patients per year. There has been an increase in paediatric emergency attendances across all acute sites within CHI. Further extension of the opening hours will be considered when Paediatric Emergency Medicine consultant staffing reaches the target for the day one opening cohort and in the context of the acute presentations to all units. Currently the successful consultant recruitment is at 57% of the target number for day one opening and these consultants are providing a consultant delivered and consultant led service across 4 clinical sites with extended onsite rostered hours on two sites.

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
Children's Health Ireland (CHI), Herberton, St James's Walk, Rialto, D08 HP97 Ireland

Scheduled Care facilities available in CHI Connolly are as follows:

General Paediatrics, Allergy Services, Rheumatology, Trauma Orthopaedics, Elective Orthopaedics, Health Care and Social Professionals (HCSP), Psychology and Complex Obesity.

CHI at Connolly also offer specialist day case services for Gastroenterology Infiximab Infusions, the Alders Unit and Allergy oral food challenges.

All available capacity and facilities at CHI at Connolly are being fully utilised to provide care within the community. There is also nurse led clinics conducted onsite that sit under the umbrella of the specialities above.

Yours sincerely

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