

Paul Murphy
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

09/05/2025

REF PQ 22075

Dear Deputy Murphy,

We were asked to comment on a Parliamentary Question directed to the Minister for Health on a move of location of the National Gender Service.

Provision of any clinical intervention (including gender affirming hormone therapy and surgical intervention) is based on a fundamental clinical principle that to recommend any clinical intervention, the apparent benefits should exceed any apparent risks.

The approved model of care in practice at the National Gender Service (NGS) is based on a multidisciplinary assessment that takes into account all aspects of a person's health and wellbeing over their lifetime, rather than focusing only on gender and gender dysphoria. This assessment results in a formulation of risk and benefit that informs a recommendation on clinical intervention. An outline of the assessment process is on our website www.nationalgenderserviceireland.com

In the current context, clinical complexity is greater than it has ever been before, with people presenting for assessment with multiple unaddressed clinical needs. Given the complexity of care at present, and chronic understaffing staff, waiting times at the National Gender Service are increasing. People are currently waiting up to four and a half years for their first appointment. Our website www.nationalgenderserviceireland.com has updates on current waiting times, and information on clinical resources that might be useful while people wait to be seen.

Further investment and service development is needed to shorten waiting times. Autism specific supports would be needed. Business cases for additional staff and clinical space were submitted to the HSE so that we can offer sufficient capacity to meet the increase in demand and reduce waiting times. It is acknowledged that additional clinical space is needed for this purpose. However, there is no definitive timeline for this at present.



We trust the above is useful in answering this query.

Yours sincerely,

Lorraine O'Toole

Interim General Manager

St Columcille's Hospital Loughlinstown