



Ref: PQ 23527/25

05th June 2025

Deputy Pádraig Rice
Dáil Eireann
Dublin 2

Dear Deputy Rice

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 response.

PQ 23527/25 – To ask the Minister for Health to confirm if a number of required positions have been filled in Temple Street's spina bifida multidisciplinary team service; and the number that remain vacant, in tabular form (details supplied).

Details Supplied: According to CHI's temple street's own published report* and HSE documents, it has been stated that the Spina Bifida MDT should consist of the following positions: Neurosurgeon, Consultant Urologist, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon (lower limbs), Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon (spinal), Spina Bifida Nurse Specialist, Paediatrician with interest in Neurodisability, Physiotherapist, Occupational Therapist, Medical Social Worker, Dietitian, Speech and Language Therapist, Psychologist, Orthotist, Play Therapist, Neuro-ophthalmologist, Advanced Nurse Practitioner. Ref: The Health and Therapy Needs of Children with Spina Bifida in Ireland"

https://media.childrenshealthireland.ie/documents/SBResearch.pdf?utm_source=chatgpt.com

Children's Health Ireland (CHI) Response:

Please see information you require from Children's Health Ireland (CHI) at Temple Street below.

The spina bifida multidisciplinary team currently consists of:

- Two Consultant Neurosurgeons
- Two Consultant Urologists, one Surgical Specialist in Bladder Management and one CNS in Urology
- Two Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeons, one Spinal and one Lower Limbs
- One CNM2 in Complex Care in Spinal Disorders
- Two Consultant Pediatricians with a specialty in Neurodisability
- Two Spina Bifida Nurse Specialists
- One Medical Social Worker

Children's Health Ireland at Connolly | Crumlin | Tallaght | Temple Street

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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

- Two Clinical Psychologists
- One Spina Bifida Services Coordinator
- One National Spina Bifida Database Register Manager

Posts Currently Vacant,

- One Physiotherapist (recruitment is ongoing)
- One Occupational Therapist (candidate recruited expected to start soon)

There is no dietician, SLT, orthoptist, play therapist, ANP or neuro Ophthalmology allocated to the core spina bifida multidisciplinary team. However any patient who needs follow up with these specialists are referred by the team to either our internal or external colleagues as needed. The team hold regular service development meetings to identify and aim to fill any gaps in services.

Yours sincerely

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Clinical Director

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