



Ref: PQ 23530/25

04<sup>th</sup> 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 a response.

**PQ 23530/25 – To ask the Minister for Health to confirm if it is Children's Health Ireland (CHI) policy to provide food to all mothers in the postpartum period or only those who breastfeed or pump breast milk for feeding; to confirm if all mothers who arrive in CHI sites by ambulance from maternity hospitals with infants requiring incubator care, high dependency unit care or intensive care are provided with food; and if she will make a statement on the matter.**

**Children's Health Ireland (CHI) Response:**

Children's Health Ireland (CHI) can advise that we only provide breastfeeding mothers or those that pump breast milk with food. Regardless of how they arrive at CHI, breastfeeding mothers receive either food vouchers to be used in the hospital canteen or food packs at ward level. This support extends beyond the postpartum period for all breastfeeding mothers.

Yours sincerely

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**Charlotte O Dwyer**  
**Directorate Lead CDA**

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**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

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