



Ref: PQ 45448/25

08th October 2025

Deputy Kenneth O'Flynn
Dáil Eireann
Dublin 2

Dear Deputy O'Flynn

I refer to your parliamentary question below. Firstly, please accept my apologies for the delay in issuing a response.

PQ 45448/25 – To ask the Minister for Health the psychological and bereavement supports being provided to families whose children have died while awaiting treatment; and if these supports are standardised across all Children's Health Ireland sites.

Children's Health Ireland (CHI) Response:

Children's Health Ireland (CHI) can advise that bereavement support is provided by the Social Work Department cross site. Bereavement support is offered to the families of children who have been patients of the hospital and who have passed away regardless of the location of the death.

The Social Work bereavement service recognises the life altering impact of the loss of a child on a family, and their particular vulnerability during the first year of bereavement. The social worker's role is to offer emotional support to the family-whether to individual members, a couple, or a family unit. They also ensure that additional supports from other agencies are arranged when needed.

The appointed social worker serves as the point of contact for each bereaved family, to liaise with the hospital as required in response to a family's grieving process. This approach is standard for all CHI sites.

In addition, the Psychology Department may provide support to a family during the period of palliative care and following bereavement if they were previously involved in the child's care.

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

Yours sincerely

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