



Cáilíocht Náisiúnta agus Sábháilteacht Othar

Oifig an Phríomhoifigigh Cliniciúil

National Quality and Patient Safety

Office of the Chief Clinical Officer

22/09/2025

Ms Sorca Clarke

Leinster House,

Kildare Street,

Dublin 2

PQ 45779/25 - To ask the Minister for Health the reason the external retrospective review of children who have undergone unnecessary hip dysplasia surgery has been delayed until January 2026; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Sorca Clarke

Dear Ms Clarke,

The HSE has commissioned an External Expert Review and is currently in the preparatory phase. This includes convening an External Expert Review Panel, engaging with patient and family advocates, developing Terms of Reference, designing a secure case management database, and undertaking logistical and resource planning. As part of this phase, the HSE is finalising the participation of international experts with the necessary academic and clinical credentials, ensuring compliance with legal and GDPR requirements for cross-border data sharing and professional engagement.

The EEP will review children's medical files including images. It does not involve a clinic appointment or physical examination of the child. The individual case reviews will commence no later than January 2026 and experts have advised that it will take at least twelve months for the EEP to review the volume of cases. This timeline reflects the complexity of the work and the need for a rigorous and comprehensive approach. The HSE is committed to supporting this process to ensure it proceeds efficiently and expeditiously.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr Orla Healy

National Clinical Lead, Quality & Patient Safety

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