



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta Straiteis Pobail agus Pleanála  
Ospidéal Dr. Steevens , BAC 8, D08 W2A8  
Tel: 01-6352308 R: community.strategy@hse.ie

Office of National Director Community Strategy and Planning  
HSE, Dr Steevens Hospital, Dublin 8. D08 W2A8  
Tel: 01-6352308 Email: community.strategy@hse.ie

Deputy Pauline Tully,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Dublin 2.

25<sup>th</sup> January 2021

**PQ Ref: 42368/20 - To ask the Minister for Health the details of funding that was allocated towards screening children with Down's syndrome for Down's arthritis in each of the years 2016 to 2019 and to date in 2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter. - Pauline Tully**

Dear Deputy Tully,

I refer to your recent parliamentary question which was passed to the HSE for response.

Down's Arthritis is a clinical term and is not an abbreviation for Down Syndrome.

The Medical Management Guidelines for children and adolescents with Down Syndrome in Ireland (February 2017) does not specifically list screening for arthritis condition as part of the standard care for people with Down Syndrome.

<https://downsyndrome.ie/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Medical-Management-Guidelines-for-Children-and-Adolescents-with-Down-Syndrome-with-updates-2009-and-2015-2.pdf>.

A first of its kind worldwide, a four-year project, undertaken at UCD School of Medicine in partnership with clinicians in Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin supported by Arthritis Ireland, Down Syndrome Ireland and the National Children's Research Centre (NCRC) took place from 2013-2017.

The NCRC is continuing to support the research into Down's Arthritis. Through the Paediatric Research Project Grant scheme, further investigation into what factors contribute to inflammation in children with Down's Arthritis is currently on-going.

Screening for Down's Arthritis is not included in any national HSE screening programme at present.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G. Crowley'.

---

Geraldine Crowley,  
Assistant National Director,  
Primary Care Strategy and Planning