



Géaroibríochtaí  
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**Date: 15/10/2020**

Deputy Louise O'Reilly TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ No. 29686/20 To ask the Minister for Health if an upright MRI machine will be procured for patients with ehlers-danlos syndrome.**

Dear Deputy O'Reilly,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

**Response:**

Upright or stand up MRI machines are useful for imaging in the physiological position, or in the position that provokes the patient's symptoms. However, these scanners are less useful for many of the more frequently performed types of MRI examinations (e.g. head/brain, peripheral joints, abdomen, pelvis, cardiac).

There is not a high level of demand for these types of MRI examinations from referring Clinicians. They are more expensive than conventional scanners and at the moment they probably do not represent good value for money for the Irish public healthcare system.

I trust this answers your question to your satisfaction.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Emma Benton'.

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**Emma Benton**

**General Manager**

**Acute Operations**