

~~5th December 2023~~ 13th Feb 2024

Deputy Kathleen Funchion T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2
E: Kathleen.funchion@oireachtas.ie

Re: PQ no: 53248/23 – Insulin pumps – St Luke's Hospital, Kilkenny

Dear Deputy Funchion,

I refer to the recent representation made to St Luke's Hospital, Kilkenny, which has been referred for direct response.

To ask the Minister for Health if he is aware that St Luke's Hospital, Kilkenny has stopped the roll-out of insulin pumps and sensors to monitor the blood sugars in the paediatric diabetes department within the hospital; if he is further aware that the chronic lack of staff has resulted in this centre of excellence for paediatric diabetes unable to staff itself; and if he will make a statement on the matter. - Kathleen Funchion

I have had this matter examined and am advised that we have temporarily stopped insulin pumps for new paediatric patients. It is true to acknowledge that we do have recruitment challenges across the diabetic services and as a result, we are not able to provide the extensive training that children and parents need before going on to the pump. We are currently experiencing a recruitment moratorium and until such time as this is reversed, we are unable to recruit for staff within this service. However, we will endeavour to address the waiting lists as a matter of urgency when the recruitment moratorium is lifted. We are very aware of the issues that are presenting within the paediatric diabetic service.

St Luke's Hospital, Kilkenny is still providing standalone sensors for continuous glucose monitoring.

I trust this information is helpful to you.

Yours sincerely


Niamh Lacey
Hospital Manager
St Luke's Hospital, Kilkenny