



Ref: PQ 50978/23

12th February 2024

Deputy Matt Carthy
Dáil Eireann
Dublin 2

Dear Deputy Carthy

I refer to your below parliamentary question which has been forwarded to me for attention.

PQ 50978/23 – To ask the Minister for Health if Children's Health Ireland prioritises admission in respect of acute neonatal care to patients who live closer to CHI hospitals; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Children's Health Ireland (CHI) Response:

Children's Health Ireland (CHI) can advise that the decision to transfer neonatal patients is based on the clinical situation and not on address, while every effort is made to treat the child as close to home as possible.

It is of importance to note that newborn babies living further away may be prioritised for transfer to CHI to optimize patient care if they are in low acuity settings.

The decision to transfer a baby is based on the safest option available.

Yours sincerely

Dr. Paula Kelly
Clinical Director