

Ref: PQ 15587/24

2nd May 2024

Deputy Duncan Smith Dáil Eireann Dublin 2

Dear Deputy Smith

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

PQ 15587/24 – To ask the Minister for Health if clinical posts are vacant in the cancer genetics department of CHI at Crumlin; the optimum staffing allocation levels for each position; the length of time that these posts have been vacant; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Sláinte Leanaí Éireann (SLÉ), Herberton, Siúlán San Séamas, Rialto, D08 HP97, Éire

Children's Health Ireland (CHI), Herberton, St James's Walk, Rialto, D08 HP97 Ireland

Children's Health Ireland (CHI) Response:

The Department of Clinical Genetics at Children's Health Ireland (CHI) at Crumlin provides a comprehensive genetic and genomic medicine service for all Rare Disease including assessing those for inherited cancer predisposition syndromes (diagnostic and predictive). The service is offered to all patients throughout their life time (including prenatal testing and reproductive choices).

Currently there are 5 WTE Genetic Counsellor posts vacant in CHI, 4 since 2023, and 1 since 2024. Recruitment into vacant Genetic Counsellor posts is impacted by the ongoing HSE recruitment embargo.

There are 7 WTE Consultant Geneticist posts funded in CHI. This includes 1 WTE vacant Consultant Geneticist post which has been accepted and a start date is awaited imminently. A further consultant post is due for advertisement in the near future. Internationally it is recommended that there are 3 Consultant Geneticists per million population (RCP UK, 2013), with staffing in Ireland falling below recommended levels.

Yours sincerely

PROF. SEAN WALSH

CLINICAL DIRECTOR/SITE LEAD

Children's Health Ireland (CHI) at Crumlin

Walk

Crumlin, D12 N512, Ireland

E ceo.admin@olchc.ie www.olchc.ie

Our **Mission** is to: Promote and provide child-centred, research-led and learning informed healthcare, to the highest standards of safety and excellence. We will do this in partnership with each other, with children, young people and their families through a network of children's services in Ireland.

CRA Registered Charity Number (RCN): 20202295 Revenue Charitable Status CHY: 22235

Board Members: Prof James Browne (Chairman), Mr Con Cronin, Ms Mary Cryan, Prof Martin Elliott, Ms Catherine Guy, Dr Anne Kilgallen, Dr Gavin Lavery, Mr Bernard McLoughlin, Ms Brigid McManus, Ms Eleanor O'Neill, Mr Sean Sheehan