



Ref: PQ 24658/24

01<sup>st</sup> July 2024

**Deputy Mairéad Farrell**

**Dáil Eireann**

**Dublin 2**

Dear Deputy Farrell

I refer to your below parliamentary question which has been forwarded to me for attention. Firstly, please accept my apologies for the delay in issuing a response.

**PQ 24658/24 – To ask the Minister for Health if he is aware of the situation, owing to the recruitment embargo, whereby children in Galway who are suffering from Prader-Willi syndrome are having to travel to Tallaght hospital in Dublin, however the paediatric dietitian in Tallaght is now currently not working; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**Children's Health Ireland (CHI) Response:**

Children's Health Ireland (CHI) at Tallaght can advise that there is a 0.5 WTE Senior Dietitian post dedicated to the Prader-Willi service. Unfortunately, this position has been vacant since July 2023. The initial competition to fill the post was unsuccessful and further progress towards successful recruitment has been delayed in recent months by the recruitment embargo.

Normal service delivery will resume once a dietitian is in post and in the meantime, patients with Prader-Willi syndrome can be referred by the Consultant to the Dietetic department's General Paediatrics outpatient clinic at CHI at Tallaght where they will be reviewed in due course.

Due to an overall 70% vacancy rate in Nutrition and Dietetics staffing in CHI at Tallaght (compounded by a national shortage of CORU Registered Dietitians and the recruitment embargo), Dietitian-led General Paediatrics Out-Patient clinics are currently running at 33% capacity. Waiting times are therefore significantly increased.

Sláinte Leanaí Éireann



Children's Health Ireland

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

Yours sincerely

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