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Date: 31st May 2024

PQ – 19656/24

Deputy Duncan Smith
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

To ask the Minister for Health the number of WTE Consultants in paediatric infectious disease and immunology at Cork University Hospital in 2023 and to date in 2024 in tabular form.

Dear Deputy Smith

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.

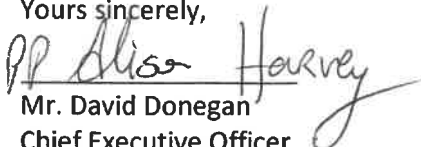
CUH Paediatrics Directorate does not have a Consultant Paediatrician with a specialist in interest in Infectious Diseases. We also do not have a Consultant Immunologist however we do have a Consultant Allergist (0.5 WTE). Our Consultant Paediatric Allergist is trained to handle clinical immunology patients and operates a shared care model in conjunction with the Paediatric Immunology service in CHI Dublin (CHI Dublin has 2.0 WTE Consultant Paediatric Immunologists).

Both sites share care of immunocompromised paediatric patients. Patients that require immunological work up, management with medication to replace antibody deficiencies and follow up control of chronic diseases with an acute infection are seen by paediatric allergy in CUH in conjunction with CHI Dublin. Patients with infectious diseases that are admitted to CUH are cared for by all our paediatricians on site who are in regular contact with adult infectious disease CUH and also the infection disease service in CHI Dublin.

A dedicated Consultant paediatrician with SI in Infectious Diseases is warranted in CUH as our population has increased and the requirement of infectious consults has increased significantly over the years. It is also part of the Model of Care for Cork.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,


Mr. David Donegan
Chief Executive Officer