

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

Ref: PQ 21553/24

31st July 2024

Deputy Peadar Tóibín Dáil Eireann Dublin 2

Dear Deputy Tóibín

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 21553/24 – To ask the Minister for Health the reason the CHI neonatal intensive care unit for the most vulnerable newborns is not being prioritised and progressed.

Children's Health Ireland (CHI) Response:

Children's Health Ireland (CHI) can advise that the opening of a neonatal Intensive Care unit NICU in the new children's hospital (NCH) is a priority. CHI executives are working with the neonatology clinical teams to deliver the future NICU in the new hospital including the further development of services in advance of opening the NCH.

The NICU service will require a phased approach with change implementation. It is dependent on funding, recruitment, staff training, and development of governance models which CHI are committed to support and deliver.

Yours sincerely

Ms. Paula Kelly Clinical Director Email: Paula.Kelly@childrenshealthireland.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, Ms Mary Donovan, Prof Martin Elliott, Ms Catherine Guy, Dr Gavin Lavery, Mr Bernard McLoughlin, Ms Brigid McManus, Ms Eleanor O'Neill