



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

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