



Géar Oibríochtaí,

Aonad 4A, Áras Dargan, An Ceantar Theas,  
An Bóthar Míleata, Cill Mhaighneann, Baile  
Átha Cliath 8, D08 NN9V

Acute Operations

Unit 4A, The Dargan Building, Heuston  
South Quarter, Military Road,  
Kilmainham, Dublin 8, D08 NN9V

www.hse.ie  
@hselive

t 01 795 9972  
e acutehospitals@hse.ie

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Deputy Róisín Shortall  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

***PQ 21812/24 - To ask the Minister for Health the mortality rate for babies sent to Temple Street and Crumlin Children's Hospital for surgical procedures and subsequently returned to a maternity hospital. - Róisín Shortall***

Dear Deputy Shortall,

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.

Hospital In-Patient Enquiry (HIPE) is a health information system, managed by the Healthcare Pricing Office (HPO) of HSE Finance and is designed to collect clinical and administrative data on discharges from, and deaths in, acute public hospitals in Ireland.

HIPE discharges are clinically coded from charts in the hospitals, this includes translating medical terminology into alpha-numeric code and using the entire chart to extract the conditions and procedures to create an adequate picture of the patient's health care encounter.

HIPE colleagues have advised they do not have access to the requested information. There is currently no unique health identifier on HIPE and, in the absence of this, patients cannot be tracked across different hospitals.

I trust this is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

**Nessa Lynch**  
**General Manager**  
**Acute Operations**