



Ref: PQ 1920/25

31st January 2025

Deputy Cian O'Callaghan
Dáil Eireann
Dublin 2

Dear Deputy O'Callaghan

I refer to your parliamentary question below which has been forwarded to me for attention.

PQ 1920/25 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of children with complex orthopaedic conditions on waiting lists with Children's Health Ireland; his plans for making treatment abroad accessible for these children; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Children's Health Ireland (CHI) Response:

Orthopaedics:

According to the latest NTPF figures (23rd of January 2025), there are 3451 children on the Children's Health Ireland (CHI) orthopaedic waiting list. There are 786 children actively waiting on the inpatient or day case orthopaedic waiting list. These figures include both children with complex and non-complex needs.

The Treatment Abroad Scheme is a HSE scheme, and details are available on the HSE website: [Treatment abroad scheme - HSE.ie](https://www.hse.ie/treatment-abroad-scheme)

Spinal surgery only:

Spinal Surgery waiting list data and activity reports are published monthly on www.childrenshealthireland.ie/spinal

The Paediatric Spinal Surgery Management Unit at CHI is working on improving capacity for spinal patients within CHI hospitals, nationally (Blackrock Clinic and The National Orthopaedic Hospital Cappagh), and internationally (in the UK and USA). Progress updates can be found at the following links:

- [November: Progress update from CHI's Spinal Surgery Management Unit | Children's Health Ireland](#)
- [Progress update from CHI's Spinal Surgery Management Unit | Children's Health Ireland](#)

Children's Health Ireland at Connolly | Crumlin | Tallaght | Temple Street

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), Ms Mary Cryan, Ms Mary Donovan, Ms Catherine Guy, Dr Gavin Lavery, Ms Brigid McManus, Ms Eleanor O'Neill

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

Uniquely commissioned international outsourcing initiatives and a funding package has been provided for each clinically-approved patient travelling abroad for their spinal surgery. Details are available here:

- [Spinal Surgeries Abroad | Children's Health Ireland](#)

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Moore', written in a cursive style.

Mr. David Moore

Orthopaedic Paediatric Consultant

Email: david.moore@childrenshealthireland.ie

Children's Health Ireland at Connolly | Crumlin | Tallaght | Temple Street

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), Ms Mary Cryan, Ms Mary Donovan, Ms Catherine Guy, Dr Gavin Lavery, Ms Brigid McManus, Ms Eleanor O'Neill