

FROM THE MINISTER OF HEALTH



Department of
Health

An Roinn Sláinte

Mánnystrie O Poustie

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Dear

Mr Speaker

AQO 1870/22-27 UPDATE ON IMPROVING ACCESS TO PAEDIATRIC PERCUTANEOUS ENDOSCOPIC GASTROSTOMY TUBE SURGERY FOR PATIENTS IN NORTHERN IRELAND


Following on from my response in the Chamber to Mr David Brooks MLA during Question Time on 8 April 2025 relating to improving access to paediatric percutaneous endoscopy gastrostomy tube surgery. My response detailed action that the Trust has taken to reduce the paediatric waiting lists and: 'we have seen a reduction from 92 children last April to 27 children on the waiting list now'.

I have recently been made aware by the Trust that these numbers contained a reporting error. Whilst the numbers remain positive as a result of managing lists in collaboration with other Trusts, the number is now sitting at 31 and there are a further 15 children medically or socially suspended. It transpires that the Trust did

not count some children who had been transferred from the Belfast list to a neighbouring Trust.

Departmental officials are working closely with the Trust to develop sustainable plans and reporting mechanisms moving forward. I apologise on behalf of the Trust for this error.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mike Nesbitt', with a stylized flourish at the end.

MIKE NESBITT MLA
Minister of Health