



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

National Office for Public
Health/ChildHealth
Strategic Planning &
Transformation,
Health Service Executive,
Public Health Department,
Second Floor,
Mount Kennett House,
Henry Street,
Limerick

Post Code V94KN3N

Tel: (061) 483347

Fax: (061) 464205

Website: <http://www.hse.ie>

15th. February 2019

Deputy Roisin Shortall
TD
Dail Eireann
Kildare St
Dublin 2

Re: PQ5101/19: To ask the Minister for Health his plans to improve the breastfeeding regime and supports that operate in workplaces in general; the particular reforms planned for the HSE as an employer for improved supports for HSE workers that are breastfeeding, and the details of specific timelines.

Dear Deputy Shortall,

The above PQ has been directed to my office for direct response to you on same.

The HSE are committed to supporting mothers to continue breastfeeding on return to work in line with WHO and HSE infant feeding recommendations and action 3.2 in the HSE Breastfeeding in a Healthy Ireland - Health Service Breastfeeding Action Plan 2016-2021.

The HSE Breastfeeding Implementation Group have drafted a HSE Staff Breastfeeding in the Workplace policy. The policy proposes that HSE employees will be supported to breastfeed until their child's second birthday through the provision of time, space and support.

The policy will be approved through established senior management sign off processes and union engagement fora.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

**DR. KEVIN KELLEHER, FFPHM, FFPHMI
ASSISTANT NATIONAL DIRECTOR –PUBLIC HEALTH/CHILD HEALTH – STRATEGIC PLANNING &
TRANSFORMATION
Medical registration number 19719**