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13th February 2019

Deputy Daly
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ Ref 5493/19 To ask the Minister for Health the status of the availability and national distribution of termination of pregnancy services in hospital settings; the number of hospitals providing termination of pregnancy services under sections 9 to 12 inclusive of the Health (Regulation of Termination of Pregnancy) Act 2018 and their adequacy to meet demand; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Daly,

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. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Further to the commencement of termination of pregnancy (TOP) services in the public health care system as provided under the Health (Regulation of Termination of Pregnancy) Act 2018, all maternity hospitals are providing the following services:

- Managing complications arising from termination;
- Providing appropriate care and supervision for women following a diagnosis of fatal foetal abnormality, and referral to the appropriate tertiary unit; and
- Providing appropriate care and supervision in cases where maternal health/life is at risk, and referral to the appropriate tertiary hospital, as appropriate.

The following hospitals are currently providing TOP services:

Ireland East Hospital Group

1. National Maternity Hospital - Holles Street
2. Midland Regional Hospital Mullingar

RCSI Hospital Group

3. Rotunda Hospital
4. Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital Drogheda

Dublin Midlands Hospital Group

5. Coombe Women and Infants University Hospital

Saolta Hospital Group

6. University Hospital Galway
7. Mayo University Hospital

University of Limerick Hospitals

8. University Maternity Hospital Limerick

South / South West Hospital Group

9. Cork University Maternity Hospital
10. University Hospital Waterford

To date, notwithstanding the challenges that are associated with the deployment of any new service, the above sites have been in a position to meet demand for acute based termination services. However it is anticipated that this list of service providers will be expanded during the course of 2019 with a view to creating additional capacity

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,



Mary-Jo Biggs

General Manager, National Women and Infants Health Programme