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25th July 2019

Deputy Stephen Donnelly
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ Ref 30688/19 To ask the Minister for Health the status of the establishment of a serious incident management forum (SIMF) for maternity services in each hospital group.**

Dear Deputy Donnelly,

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.

The development and implementation of maternity focused Serious Incident Management Forum (SIMF) within each Maternity Network is a key objective of the Programme. These SIMFs provide robust and high level oversight of adverse outcomes within each Network and underpin the quality & safety standards in the 19 maternity units.

The maternity SIMF at Hospital Group level ensures that there is an objective assessment of reviewers that have taken place as well as independently assessing the review. The SIMF also ensures that learning is shared across the Group.

SIMFs are fully operational in Saolta University Health Care Group, RCSI and Dublin Midlands Hospital Group. In University of Limerick Hospital Group there is only one maternity hospital and there is a robust process in place. In South/Southwest Hospital Group there is also a robust process in place for managing adverse events, and the SIMF will be established shortly. Ireland East Hospital Group also has a robust management process but has yet to develop their SIMF.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

Kilian McGrane
National Programme Director, National Women and Infants Health Programme