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31<sup>st</sup> July 2019

Deputy Stephen Donnelly  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ Ref 30689/19 To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide a report on the pilot anaesthetics model of care for general hospitals with maternity services.**

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 pilot project for anaesthetics model of care for general hospitals with maternity services is a collaboration between the Clinical Programme in Anaesthetics and the National Women and Infants Health Programme.

The pilot project was initiated in Sligo University Hospital and required the investment of two additional consultant anaesthetist posts so as to extend and enhance the on-site presence of expertise at consultant level to manage the requirements of maternity services. This pilot differs from the traditional model of increasing the number of anaesthetic registrar posts. Approval and funding was provided to Sligo in 2018 to enable the commencement of this pilot. The outcome and impact of same are due to be reviewed by the Clinical Programme and NWIHP later in 2019.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

**Mary-Jo Biggs**  
General Manager, National Women and Infants Health Programme