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25<sup>th</sup> July 2019

Deputy Stephen Donnelly Dáil Éireann Leinster House Dublin 2

PQ Ref 30690/19\*\*To ask the Minister for Health the status of the implementation of a phased national plan for benign gynaecology; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

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 National Women and Infants Health Programme (NWIHP) are currently finalising a Pathway of Care for Ambulatory Benign Gynaecology care in Ireland. The draft will be presented to a stakeholder group at the Department of Health in late July. This document will be the first of its kind to outline a new, ambulatory pathway for women who require benign gynaecology care. If appropriately resourced, the NWIHP anticipate that the pathway will:

- Provide a sustainable service to women;
- Embed safe and appropriate clinical practices;
- Enabling the management of benign gynaecological needs at the lowest level of clinical intervention necessary;
- Ensure the cost-effective use of public resources.

I anticipate the Pathway of Care will be completed and published by year end.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

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Yours sincerely,

Kilian McGrane

National Programme Director, National Women and Infants Health Programme