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Deputy Stephen Donnelly  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ Ref 30695/19 To ask the Minister for Health if the HSE has developed a national suite of KPIs for maternity services including the model of care.**

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.

In relation to the development of KPIs within public maternity services, the HSE has in place systems and processes to capture and review key metrics within its maternity services. These KPIs and performance metrics are reviewed on an on-going manner at local, hospital group and national level so as to inform safety and quality improvements and act as an early warning mechanism for issues that may require local management and actions or any issues that require intervention at Hospital Group or national level. The on-going development of Maternity Networks as recommended in the National Maternity Strategy play a key role in this regard.

The suite of metrics and KPIs being captured are reviewed on an annual basis and updated and/or expanded as required based on the on-going implementation of the National Maternity Strategy and clinical initiatives and developments underway. Outlined below is an overview of the current suite of processes in place in maternity services regarding data and KPI management.

A range of key metrics and key performance indicators are measured in an on-going manner via the Irish Maternity Indicator System (IMIS) which collects and publishes data from the 19 maternity units across a range of 33 multidisciplinary metrics including hospital management activities, neonatal metrics, laboratory metrics, serious obstetric events and delivery metrics. The IMIS is a management tool that serves several functions, including hospital level, hospital group level and national level tracking and reviewing of maternity service data and activity whilst also providing national comparisons across all maternity units.

The IMIS is an innovative and progressive tool in Ireland's maternity services, enabling more timely scrutiny of hospital processes and outcomes for women and infants. Annual IMIS reports are prepared by the National Women and Infants Health Programme and the National Clinical Programme for Obstetrics and Gynaecology. The 2018 Annual Report is available on-line. The metrics and KPI contained within IMIS are reviewed and updated on an annual basis as the HSE

continues implementing the National Maternity Strategy. Metrics added in relation to 2019 data including breastfeeding KPIs and metrics.

In addition to IMIS, Maternity Patient Safety Statements (MPSS) are published for each of the country's 19 maternity hospitals and units. Each Hospital Group and Maternity Hospital publishes an updated statement each month. The objective in publishing these statements is to provide public assurance that maternity services are delivered in an environment that promotes open disclosure. Each Statement contains information on 17 metrics and performance indicators which again inform local and Hospital Group review of maternity services. The information contained within MPSS is reviewed and discussed in meetings held between the National Women and Infants Health Programme and Hospital Groups.

At national level, a suite of overarching KPIs is in place for the HSE. Within this suite of KPIs, specific KPIs are included in relation to the National Women and Infants Health Programme including implementation of the Irish Maternity Early Warning System. This suite of KPIs is currently under review for 2020 and will be updated based on the work programmes being driven and developed in relation to maternity services including the Model of Care.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,



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