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Wednesday, 10th July 2019

**Deputy Alan Kelly,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2**

RE: PQ Ref: 26769/19 – To ask the Minister for Health the hospitals with the highest rates of neonatal brain injury; and the number of same in each of the years 2014 to 2018 and to date in 2019, by hospital in tabular form.

Dear Deputy Kelly,

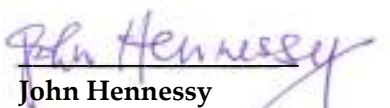
The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for response.

The 2016/2017 review of neonatal therapeutic hypothermia found that there were 63 cases of therapeutic hypothermia in 2016 and 77 cases in 2017. This represents a rate of neonatal brain injury of approximately one in 900 births. The number of cases for the other years and for the individual hospitals that you requested is not available centrally.

It can be estimated, however, that the number of cases in an individual hospital will be related to the number of births that take place in the unit. Smaller hospitals with approximately 2,000 births per year would expect to have two cases per year. Hospitals with approximately 3,500 births per annum could expect three to four cases per year. Larger hospitals with over 8,000 births can expect to have approximately eight cases per annum. There may be variations in this pattern at individual site level from one year to the next.

I trust the above information is of assistance to you and please contact me should you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,


**John Hennessy
National Director
Acute Strategy & Planning**