

Deputy Denis Naughten
Houses of the Oireachtas
Kildare St
Dublin 2.

13th November 2019

PQ Number: 46400/19

PQ Question: *'To ask the Minister for Health the status of the implementation of each of the recommendations of the review of maternity services in Portiuncula Hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter'.*

Dear Deputy Naughten,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of representations in relation to the above PQ which was submitted to the Minister for Health.

I wish to confirm that Portiuncula University Hospital has to date successfully implemented over 90% of the recommendations made in the Maternity Review.

In relation to the outstanding recommendations the following is the current situation which mainly relates to recruitment issues:

1. Appointment of a Peri-natal Pathologist

We have identified a doctor who has completed their pathology training and we are currently supporting this doctor to undertake a Fellowship in Peri-natal Pathology in North America. When this Fellowship is completed this doctor will be eligible to apply for this position. We are awaiting national approval to advertise this post. This post will cover a number of hospitals in the Saolta Group.

2. Sonographers

We have advertised these positions on a number of occasions both nationally and internationally. There is a shortage of this grade of staff. We have advertised internally and currently we have one midwife undertaking Masters training for sonography.

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3. Consultant Obstetrician

We are currently awaiting national approval to advertise 2 Consultant Obstetricians – these posts are joint appointments between Portiuncula University Hospital and Galway University Hospital. We are confident that we will successfully recruit to these positions as a number of people have expressed interest.

The Implementation Team including some of the families involved in the review remains in place to finalise the outstanding actions.

I trust that this clarifies the position.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. James Keane,
General Manager.