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14<sup>th</sup> November 2019

**Deputy Róisín Shortall,  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2**

**PQ 46851/19: To ask the Minister for Health the contingency plan for access to milk bank supplies from the UK in the event of a no-deal Brexit; the way in which supplies would be impacted under the proposed EU-UK deal; his plans to establish a milk bank here; and if he will make a statement on the matter**

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Dear Deputy Shortall,

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 HSE is committed to the supply of donor breast milk to sick or preterm babies when on occasion their mothers are unable to produce sufficient breast milk for their needs. There is currently an arrangement in place to purchase donor breast milk from a number of sites in the UK which meets the required need.

The supply of breast milk was reviewed as part of the contingency arrangements in the event of a 'No Deal' Brexit and, to date, the only Brexit related issue identified is the requirement for GDPR compliance in respect of personal data shared with NI based parties. This issue is being dealt with by including Standard Contract Clauses in contracts with the Breast Milk Bank.

The HSE does not currently have plans to establish and operate a human milk bank in the Republic of Ireland, however, we are committed to maintaining necessary supply.

I trust the above information is of assistance to you, however, should you require any further details please contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely,

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