



Unit 7A, The Dargan Building
Heuston South Quarter
Military Road
Kilmainham
Dublin 8.
076 695 9991

15 October 2019

Deputy Louise O'Reilly
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ Ref 40953/19

Dear Deputy O'Reilly,

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.

To ask the Minister for Health his views on whether there is a regional imbalance in therapeutic hypothermia cooling centres nationwide.

There is an agreed national clinical care pathway for the provision of therapeutic hypothermia for infants who require it across any of the 19 maternity units in the State.

When an infant is deemed to be at risk from hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy, the infant is examined by a paediatrician/neonatologist using the therapeutic hypothermia checklist. If the diagnosis is confirmed, passive cooling is immediately commenced in order to reduce the infant's body temperature to 33.5C. Passive cooling consists of leaving the infant undressed, and switching off the temperature in the incubators. In the case of an infant born outside a tertiary centre, the national neonatal transport will go out and transfer the infant to a designated centre for further treatment and investigation.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

Grace Turner
General Manager, National Women and Infants Health Programme