

**Deputy Anne Rabbitte**  
**Houses of the Oireachtas**  
**Kildare St**  
**Dublin 2.**

23<sup>rd</sup> October 2019

**PQ Number:** 41791/19

**PQ Question:** *“To ask the Minister for Health the reason parents are encountering delays in obtaining birth and death certificates for babies born at Portiuncula Hospital”*

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Dear Deputy Rabbitte,

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.

Portiuncula University Hospital does not issue birth or death certificates. The certificates are issued by the local Registrar for Deaths, Births and Marriages.


I have reviewed the situation and there are no delays in forwarding data from Portiuncula University Hospital to the Registrar.

Where a post mortem is required following a still birth the process is longer and there is a delay in issuing the data to the Registrar as the death certificate cannot be issued by the Registrar until the post mortem result is available.

The hospital appointed a Bereavement Midwife in 2018 and this midwife is available to assist parents who are experiencing any difficulties following a bereavement and will assist where required with the registration process.

I trust that this clarifies the position.

Yours sincerely,



**Mr. James Keane,**  
**General Manager.**