

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

23rd October 2019

PQ Number: 41793/19

PQ Question: *“To ask the Minister for Health the number of the recommendations listed in the external independent clinical review of the maternity services at Portiuncula Hospital, Ballinasloe that have been fulfilled; the recommendations still outstanding; and if he will make a statement on the matter”*

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.

In relation to the outstanding recommendation of the maternity review the following is the current situation which mainly relates to recruitment issues:

1. Appointment of a Peri-natal Pathologist

This post has been advertised and there were no successful applicants. 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.

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 advertising for 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.

All other recommendations have been implemented and 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.