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21st December 2020

Deputy Nolan,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ Ref 41098/20 To ask the Minister for Health the number of cases in which a women received a scan to confirm the gestation of pregnancy since the Health (Regulation of Termination of Pregnancy) Act 2018 was introduced; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Nolan,

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.

Women accessing termination of pregnancy services who receive a scan do so via numerous routes within the health services, depending on their initial location of presentation e.g. community versus acute sector, local referral pathways in place to access scanning services, the gestation stage of their pregnancy and the structure and organisation of scanning services at local level e.g. women managed in general early pregnancy scanning clinics in hospitals, scanning undertaken in dedicated TOP clinics within maternity and gynaecology hospital services or scanning provided by the private provider Affidea in the community.

In the context of the multiple routes and locations available for referral and that in many scenarios within hospitals these scans would not be recorded as specifically required in relation to the provision of termination services, the data you seek is not available at national level.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

Mary-Jo Biggs, General Manager, National Women and Infants Health Programme