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17th August 2020

Deputy Tully,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ Ref 20151/20 To ask the Minister for Health the person or body with responsibility for developing national clinical obstetric ultrasound guidelines as a whole entity; and the status of the progress of those guidelines.

Dear Deputy Tully,

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.

The National Clinical Programme for Obstetrics and Gynaecology was established in 2010 as a joint initiative between the HSE Clinical Strategy and Programmes Division and the Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. This National Clinical Programme was responsible for developing a broad suite of maternity care related National Clinical Guidelines, many of which address the provision and use of ultrasounds in the provision of obstetric care including

- Ultrasound Diagnosis of Early Pregnancy Loss;
- Fetal Growth Restriction – Recognition, Diagnosis & Management; and
- Management of Multiple Pregnancies.

The National Clinical Programme and its role in developing national clinical obstetrical guidelines was transferred into the HSE's National Women and Infants Health Programme. NWIHP is currently working with the Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology to both identify a prioritised list of guidelines for review and identify new national guidelines for development. NWIHP has recently advertised for the post of a National Clinical Lead for guideline development so as to drive and lead this important programme of work.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary-Jo Biggs'.

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

