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7<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Deputy Nolan  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ Ref 11812 To ask the Minister for Health the membership and terms of reference of the Clinical Advisory Forum which was established to provide guidance on termination of pregnancy services; the number of times the forum has met; 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.

#### ***Context of Clinical Advisory Forum***

The Clinical Advisory Forum (CAF) was established to inform and enable the provision of a safe, high quality termination of pregnancy service. The CAF is accountable to the HSE's National Women and Infants Health Programme (NWIHP) and reports through its Chair to the NWIHP Programme Director. The Forum, having regard to achieving optimum patient care, will examine and make recommendations on the operation and continued roll out of Termination of Pregnancy Services.

#### ***Scope & Function of CAF***

The Clinical Advisory Forum provides a method for formal clinical input to the operation and continued expansion of Termination of Pregnancy Services, in accordance with the Health (Regulation of Termination of Pregnancy) Act 2018.

The Forum will develop consensus recommendations on provision of ToP services and emerging issues based on all available sources of evidence and in conjunction with clinical expertise and experience. Recommendations will inform the development and/or revision of clinical guidelines and the Model of Care for Termination of Pregnancy Services..

The function of the Clinical Advisory Group is to examine and make recommendations on the provision of ToP services with a particular focus on:

- Access,
- Quality Assurance,
- Capacity,
- Engagement,

- Professional Development,  
*and*
- Education and Training.

The Forum is chaired by the HSE's Clinical Lead for Termination of Pregnancy Services and is a multidisciplinary forum with representatives from service providers within both the acute and community settings and a number of special interests groups including the Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, the National Womens Council and My Options – Crisis Pregnancy.

To date the Forum has met twice since it was established, once in February and once in May (virtual meeting).

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,



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