

25<sup>th</sup> June 2020

**PQ 12554/20 To ask the Minister for Health the reason partners of persons giving birth by c-section are denied access to the theatres in Galway University Hospital; if a review of the policy will be undertaken; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Catherine Connolly**

Dear Deputy Connolly

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply to you directly in the context of the request for information referenced above, the following outlines the situation.

The Women and Children's Directorate have reviewed this parliamentary question in which you have raised concerns regarding the hospital Policy on Partners not attending Elective Caesarean Sections.

I wish to advise this policy has been reviewed again, since Thursday 14th May 2020 partners can attend at caesarean section performed under regional anaesthesia, provided they are subjected to the same general screening questions as the women attending our services.

Partners are asked to wear PPE (surgical mask and gown) in the theatre. They are able to stay with their partner and baby whilst in recovery, however once mum and baby have been transferred to the postnatal ward the visiting restrictions remain, no partners on the postnatal ward.

Please be assured a partner, husband or friend will be allowed into the theatre to support the woman.

I trust this clarifies the matter at this time.

Yours sincerely



Chris Kane

General Manager

Galway University Hospitals.