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22<sup>nd</sup> June 2020

Deputy Duncan Smith

Dáil Éireann

Leinster House

Dublin 2

PQ 9805/20 To ask the Minister for Health when he expects to allow gynaecologists to return to operation; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Smith,

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.

A number of gynaecological procedures continued throughout the Covid-19 emergency. These would be time dependent emergencies for example management of ectopic pregnancies and some gynaecology infections.

Cancer related gynaecological surgery has also continued throughout the Covid-19 emergency in non-Covid health care facilities e.g. private hospitals.

A number of hospitals have now resumed gynaecology surgery and are functioning near to pre-Covid capacity, whilst other hospitals through the use of private facilities are currently able to function at a level that approximates normal activity.

The HSE is actively pursuing the resumption of activity that maximizes both personnel resources and facilities but that is compatible with safe infection control practices.

I trust this clarifies the position.

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