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12th May 2020

Deputy Róisín Shorthall Dáil Éireann Leinster House Dublin 2

PQ Ref 3208/20** To ask the Minister for Health the number of audit reports conducted on maternity hospitals in the past five years; and if copies of the audits will be made available.

Dear Deputy Shorthall,

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.

In the absence of specifics there are a number of stakeholders both internal and external to the HSE that conduct audits related to maternity services. These would include:

- The National Perinatal Epidemiology Centre: https://www.ucc.ie/en/npec/
- The Health Information and Quality Authority: https://www.hiqa.ie/reports-and-publications/key-reports-and-investigations/maternity-overview-report
- The National Women and Infants Health Programme: https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/acute-hospitals-division/woman-infants/national-reports-on-womens-health/
- Specialist Perinatal Mental Health Services: https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/mental-health-services/specialist-perinatal-mental-health/

I hope this clarifies your question.

Yours faithfully,

Mary-Jo Biggs,

General Manager, National Women and Infants Health Programme