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12/11/2020

Deputy Matthews  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ32637/20 To ask the Minister for Health the rules with regards to level 5 restrictions regarding the attendance of a designated partner in maternity wards, specifically the terms included in compassionate grounds and if there is scope for discretion by individual doctors in this regard**

Dear Deputy Matthews,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Representative Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Please see attached, a copy of a document from the HSE entitled 'Visiting Practices in Maternity Services'. To the best of our knowledge, all hospitals facilitate the attendance of partners at births while visiting restrictions within the area of postnatal care is based on the local conditions of the hospital. If bad news is expected then hospitals are encouraged to use their discretion on compassionate grounds.

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**