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12/11/2020

Deputy Cairns
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ32904/20 To ask the Minister for Health the restrictions on partners and or accompanying persons attending the labour and prenatal appointments in the maternity services under levels 4 and 5 of the Living with Covid Plan; and if he will make a statement on the matter..

Dear Deputy Cairns,

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.

In the context of pre-natal visits there are restrictions on women being accompanied to appointments however 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