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12th November 2020

Deputy Nolan,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ 32981/20 To ask the Minister for Health if personnel or section within his Department or the HSE have ever conducted an ethical review of the Groningen Protocol which originated in the Netherlands and which permits the active euthanasia or physician assisted death of premature and severely ill new-borns; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Nolan,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) 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 a response. I have noted the matters raised. My reply is as follows.

An ethical review of the Groningen Protocol has not been conducted in Ireland. Active Euthanasia or Physician assisted death of premature or severely ill new-borns is not legal in Ireland.

Thank you for your enquiry.  
I trust this clarifies matters,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary-Jo Biggs'.

**Mary-Jo Biggs, General Manager, National Women and Infants Health Programme**