



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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2nd November 2020

Deputy Jennifer Whitmore
TD
Dail Eireann
Kildare Street
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PQ33350/20: To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide a budget 2021 breakdown of funding for breastfeeding; the funding being made available to implement the National Breastfeeding Action Plan; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Whitmore,

The above PQ has been forwarded to my Department for direct response to you on same.

The National Breastfeeding Implementation Group was established in 2016 to oversee the implementation of Breastfeeding in a Healthy Ireland – HSE Action Plan 2016-2021.

The group is working to achieve the aims and objectives of the Breastfeeding Action Plan through the implementation of initiatives in the following areas:

1. Improved governance and health service structures
2. Breastfeeding training and skills development
3. Health service policies and practices
4. Support at all stages of the breastfeeding continuum through social marketing, support and advocacy.

The group is partnering with key divisions to develop to provide the supports that mothers require at all stages of the breastfeeding continuum.

The allocation of additional funding each year is through the annual Estimates process. Submissions were made each year since 2017 for funding to provide additional lactation consultant posts and breast pumps for preterm babies. Up until now the HSE has not received any additional funding to implement the plan, apart from 3 additional lactation consultant posts in 2020. However considerable progress has been made using existing resources and support received from the Nurture-Infant Health and Wellbeing Programme.

The processes for the allocation of funding for 2021 to maintain current services levels and for additional lactation consultant posts and equipment are in progress. The HSE have provided an outline of the

programme of work and budget allocated to the National Breastfeeding Action Plan to date in the response to PQ 33351/20.

I trust this information will be of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Kelleher', with a horizontal line underneath.

DR. KEVIN KELLEHER, FFPHM, FFPHMI
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