



Office of the Head of Operations Primary Care, Community Operations  
Dr. Steevens Hospital, Dublin 8, DO8 W2A8  
Tel: 01-6352682 Email: community.primarycare@hse.ie

Oifig Ceann na n-Oibríochtaí, Cúraim Phríomhúil, Oibríochtaí Pobail  
Ospidéal Dr. Steevens' Baile Atha Cliath 8, DO8 W2A8  
T 01 6352682 R: community.primarycare@hse.ie

18<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Deputy David Cullinane,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 36443/20 - To ask the Minister for Health the current guidelines regarding water births; if the HSE has advised that homebirthing parents can no longer have water births; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**-David Cullinane**

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Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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 response.

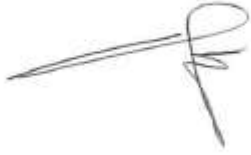
Currently the HSE, in the interest of health and safety of women and babies, has temporarily paused facilitating planned water births in the home birth service, meaning that during labour a woman can immerse in water but will have to leave the water for the birth of the baby.

The HSE is committed to providing safe and effective care during pregnancy and birth and it is for this reason that this decision has been made while the reviews are undertaken.

For anyone requiring further information and advice, the HSE advises that services users make contact with their Designated Midwifery Officer and Self-Employed Community Midwife.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



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Siobhán McArdle,  
Head of Operations Primary Care,  
Community Operations