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2nd December 2020

Deputy Neale Richmond,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 38730/20 - To ask the Minister for Health the reason for the banning of water births by the HSE; and if he will make a statement on the matter

-Neale Richmond

Dear Deputy Richmond,

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,

TJ Dunford.
Interim Head of Primary Care Operations/AND.
Community Operations