



Clár Sláinte Náisiúnta do Mhná & do Naíonáin
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte, Aonad 7A, Áras
Dargan, An Ceantar Theas, Baile Átha Cliath 8
T: 076 695 9991

National Women and Infants Health Programme
Health Service Executive, Unit 7A, The Dargan Building,
Heuston South Quarter, Dublin 8
T: 076 695 9991

03/11/2020

Deputy Costello
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ Ref 32093/20 - To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide details of the official policy on partners attending antenatal appointments; and if he will address the differing policies currently in operation in maternity hospitals - Patrick Costello

Dear Deputy Costello

The Health Service Executive 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 response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Currently, partners do not attend antenatal appointments but if bad news is expected then hospitals are encouraged to use their discretion on compassionate grounds. Not all hospitals have identical policies as an individual hospital will reflect the background community infection rate, the number of staff who are either unwell or isolating for COVID relating reasons and the infrastructure of each unit.

Please see attached a paper which provides more detailed information on the range and type of issues that inform policies in this area

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

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