



Clár Sláinte Náisiúnta do Mhná & do Naíonáin
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21st September 2020

Deputy Ward,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ Ref 21143/20 To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to reports in the delay of the HSE Homebirth services since March 2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Chambers,

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.

The HSE National Homebirth Service is currently experiencing no delays in the review and sign off of pregnant women in line with the clinical guidelines and clinical criteria in place in the HSE for this service. Earlier in the year, a degree of delay was experienced in the east of the country due to changes in key decision making personnel; however this issue has been resolved.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

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

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