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7th October 2020

Deputy Nolan,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ ref 24790/20: To ask the Minister for Health the maternity hospitals in which values clarification workshops have taken place from 2018 to date in 2020; the number of HSE staff that have participated in the workshops; if such participation is mandatory; the organisation which delivered same; the nature of the workshops in terms of content and structure; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Nolan,

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.

Seven values clarification workshop sessions have taken place from 2018 to date. These sessions were held in the Rotunda Hospital, the Coombe Women and Infants Hospital, the National Maternity Hospital, Cork University Hospital and Limerick University Hospital. 126 HSE staff were scheduled to attend these sessions and advocates were trained at providing values clarification training locally. Attendance was not mandatory.

The sessions were run in conjunction with and facilitated by the World Health Organisation (WHO). In addition to skills training, values clarification exercises were undertaken to enable healthcare providers differentiate their own personal beliefs & attitudes from the needs of women seeking termination of pregnancy. The Sessions were structured as follows:

1. Opening - Welcome; introductions; workshop objectives; empowering participation
2. Demonstrating empathy for individuals requesting abortion – Personal Values and Professional Responsibilities
3. Creating an enabling service delivery environment for comprehensive abortion care
 - a. Abortion in the world and in high-income countries
 - b. Enabling equitable access

- c. Promoting good quality of care for abortion before and after 12 weeks
- d. GP provision of holistic care
- e. Normalising safe abortion care as an essential health service for individuals with a crisis pregnancy

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,



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