

By email to [david.cullinane@oireachtas.ie](mailto:david.cullinane@oireachtas.ie)

28<sup>th</sup> April 2021

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

**Re: Parliamentary Question 19495-21 -** *“To ask the Minister for Health if patients have a right to be informed of the risks of vaginal birth after caesarean; if a fully independent hospital wide review of vaginal birth after caesarean counselling will be carried out at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”*

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

The RCSI Hospital Group 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. Having reviewed the matter, the following outlines the position.

Each woman attending the Maternity services in Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, who have had a previous delivery by Caesarean section, are always informed of the risks of a vaginal birth as a result of her previous C-section.

In Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, an information leaflet on Vaginal Delivery after Caesarean (VBAC) is made available to these women. Each woman’s individual needs pertaining to delivery is discussed with her by the obstetric team delivering her care, so that an informed decision regarding the delivery of her baby can be made.

Following on from recommendations made in a previous review commissioned in Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, a system is in place whereby the discussion around VBAC and distribution of the information leaflet, referred to above, is signed and visibly documented in the patient’s healthcare record. Audits of the VBAC assessment tool have taken place in Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital in line with the recommendations of the aforementioned review and referring to the RCOG standards in the Green Top document “Birth After Previous Caesarean Birth” (2015).

We trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



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June Molloy  
Communications Manager  
RCSI Hospital Group