



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

11th May 2021

Deputy Nolan
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ Ref 20234/21: To ask the Minister for Health the attempts made to reflect the wide diversity of opinion in society on the definition of best practice and an evidence-based approach to pregnancy counselling and unplanned pregnancy when establishing the Clinical Advisory Forum; and the steps he will take to ensure that individuals offering all perspectives are invited to join the Clinical Advisory Forum and other bodies operated by the HSE in the area of unplanned pregnancy.

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.

The Clinical Advisory Forum (CAF) was established to inform and enable the provision of a safe, high quality termination of pregnancy service. The CAF is accountable to the HSE's National Women and Infants Health Programme (NWIHP) and reports through its Chair to the NWIHP Director. The Forum, having regard to achieving optimum patient care, will examine and make recommendations on the operation and continued roll out of Termination of Pregnancy Services.

The Forum will develop consensus recommendations on provision of ToP services and emerging issues based on all available sources of evidence and in conjunction with clinical expertise and experience. Recommendations will inform the development and/or revision of clinical guidelines and the Model of Care for Termination of Pregnancy Services.

The function of the Clinical Advisory Group is to examine and make recommendations on the provision of ToP services with a particular focus on:

- Access,
- Quality Assurance,
- Capacity,
- Engagement,
- Professional Development,
- Education and Training.

The Forum is chaired by the HSE's Clinical Lead for Termination of Pregnancy Services and is a multidisciplinary forum with representatives from service providers within both the acute and community

settings and a number of special interests groups including the Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, the National Women's Council and My Options – Crisis Pregnancy.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,



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