

21st December 2021

Deputy Paul Murphy T.D., Dáil Éireann, Leinster House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2 E: paul.murphy@oireachtas.ie

Re: PQ 61403/21 - Visitor Restrictions, National Maternity Hospital

"To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the fact that fathers are being denied access to attend 12 week scans at the National Maternity Hospital, Holles Street, in cases in which partners are fully vaccinated and have no Covid-19 symptoms; the reason partners have been refused access given the advice in national media that partners can attend all pregnancy related appointments; the steps that will be taken to ensure this does not reoccur; and if he will make a statement on the matter."

Dear Deputy Murphy,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question seeking an update on visitor restrictions in the National Maternity Hospital, which has been referred to the Ireland East Hospital Group for direct response.

I have had this matter examined and am advised that from the beginning of the pandemic, the National Maternity Hospital have welcomed partners at appointments for early pregnancy and anomaly scans and at any stage when a woman is concerned about her pregnancy.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

Paul Gallagher

Chief Director of Nursing and Midwifery

