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April 9th 2021

Deputy Nolan,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ Ref 14062/21: To ask the Minister for Health the total and individual amounts paid to third-party organisations to provide training and ongoing support for doctors and healthcare workers providing termination of pregnancy services; the relevant organisations in this regard; 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.

As part of the development and implementation of termination of pregnancy services within the acute hospital sector, funding of €350,000 was allocated by the HSE to the Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology as the professional body for the speciality of obstetrics and gynaecology in Ireland. This funding was targeting at supporting a two year programme, the aims and objectives of this funding are as follows:

- Appointment of a National Clinical Training Lead in the area of termination on a part time basis;
- Provision of educationalist input into the work of the National Training Lead;
- Provision of administration support to the National Training Lead;
- Development and delivery of consultant training courses in the area of termination of pregnancy, covering all components of the service as prescribed under legislation;
- Development and delivery of trainee training courses in the area of termination of pregnancy, covering all components of the service as prescribed under legislation and as appropriate to the individual stages of training;
- Review and update of the suite of guidelines for the provision of termination of pregnancy services as developed previously by the Institute at the request of the DoH; and
- Development of on-line training modules as required and appropriate.

It was also required by the HSE, that any training courses for consultants in the provision of termination of pregnancy services should also address the CME requirements of consultants in this area as appropriate, whilst courses developed for specialist trainees in this area will also be expected to be made available to non-training NCHD practising in the area of obstetrics and gynaecology as part of their continual professional programmes.

The Irish College of General Practitioners was funded €475,000 between 2018 and 2019 to provide training to medical practitioner on termination of pregnancy. The Office of the Nursing and Midwifery Services Director (ONMSD) has set up training modules for nurses and midwives. Local training will also have been provided, from within existing training budgets.

The World Health Organisation were invited to provide training to various hospital sites on the topic of 'Values Clarification'. These were collaborative exercise between various stakeholders. The WHO covered the costs of flights and different hospitals hosted them for information sessions – These sessions were sponsored by local hosts. The Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology did not fund these sessions, however they did provide organisational support to the training services being provided.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,



Kilian McGrane, Director, National Women and Infants Health Programme