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April 9th 2021

Deputy Tóibín
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ Ref 14078/21: To ask the Minister for Health the amount paid to healthcare professionals in hospital settings in 2019 and 2020 for providing termination of pregnancy services; the amount paid to doctors in general practitioner community settings for the same service during the same period by year and category; and the breakdown of the payments by region, for example, the greater Dublin area, the rest of Leinster, Connacht, Ulster and Munster.

Dear Deputy Tóibín

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.

In relation to the spend within the acute hospital sector regarding the development and roll-out of termination services by health care professionals employed directly by our hospital services, as set out in the response to you dated 17th February 2021 regarding your PQ 5186/21, the acute hospital system was allocated €7 million in 2019 to support the roll-out of termination services as of 1st January 2019, with a further €5 million existing level of service funding provided in 2020 by the Department of Health for the acute sector.

This funding was targeted at developing and implementing additional personnel resources across a range of hospital sites to implement this new service within the hospital sector. Resources supported by this investment included additional consultant obstetricians and gynaecologists, midwives and nurses, ultrasonographers, theatre staff, bereavement specialists, administrators, medical social workers and pharmacists.

These resources, whilst funded and established utilising funding provided to support termination of pregnancy services, have developed and being embedded within existing gynaecology and maternity services such that termination of pregnancy service is just one of the areas of responsibilities that they hold on the ground.

All healthcare professionals resources developed under this funding stream, are salaried employees of the public health care service, with no healthcare professional in the hospital setting receiving a fee per care

package provided as part of termination services – rather this is a component of care they provide to women as part of their public salaried role within their relevant maternity and gynaecology service.

In relation to primary care spend, €2.9M was paid to medical practitioners in 2019 and €3.26M was paid to medical practitioners in 2020.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,



Kilian McGrane, Director, National Women and Infants Health Programme