

Deputy Brendan Griffin  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

29<sup>th</sup> March 2021

**PQ Number: 14609/21**

***PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the level of funding made available to Cork University Maternity Hospital to help women in the aftermath of a traumatic pregnancy; if the hospital provides aftercare services such as bereavement counselling for women who have had to travel for care in the UK following consultation in CUMH; and if he will make a statement on the matter. - Brendan Griffin***


**Dear Deputy Griffin**

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 Medical Social Work Department at CUMH can provide antenatal support and follow up bereavement support and counselling to women experiencing a traumatic pregnancy who may travel to the UK for termination. It is not hospital policy that all women are referred to Medical Social Work for support but when referrals are identified by the Consultant and/or Midwife the support is available to these women. This service is open to all public patients of the hospital and on a case by case basis to private patients. For some women their needs are best met by counselling services in the community and the Medical Social Work Department at CUMH has established referral pathways for post termination of pregnancy support for these patients.

Also the Clinical Midwife Specialists in Bereavement Counselling in CUMH are available to provide practical, emotional and psychological support in person or phone to those women who have been diagnosed with a fatal fetal condition and choose to travel overseas for termination. This service is available from the time of diagnosis of, through planning a trip overseas for termination and on return home.

Yours sincerely,



John R. Higgins  
*Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University College Cork  
Clinical Director Ireland South Women & Infants Directorate  
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**Professor John R. Higgins**  
**U 1 APR 2021**  
**Clinical Director**  
**Approved**