

30<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Deputy Cullinane,  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ Ref 15168/21\*\* To ask the Minister for Health the exchange visits since 2017 between mesh removal surgeons here and colleagues in other jurisdictions; the itinerary followed; the hosts and participants; the observations of mesh removal operations; the training provided; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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.

Continuing medical education and continuing professional development is a matter for individual Consultants and is integrated into their requirements for on-going registration in the specialist division of the Register of Medical Practitioners as maintained and governed by the Medical Council of Ireland. Provision for an annual CME grant is provided for in the Consultants Contract offered by the HSE. However subject to meeting high level requirements regarding the expenditure and draw down of this grant, each individual Consultant is afforded the discretion to make their own arrangements directly regarding their education and training programme in any given year including participation in national and international conferences, attendance at services in other jurisdictions for the purposes of training and education etc.

With the knowledge and support of NWIHP, one HSE consultant did attend an NHS Mesh Specialist Centre with a view to appraising and assessing the use of translabial scanning in the service and advising NWIHP on same. Further to this visit, and upon the advice received, NWIHP did support the purchase of two such scanners in the National Mesh Complication Service – one located in CUMH and one in the National Maternity Hospital.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours faithfully,



**Mary-Jo Biggs**

General Manager, National Women and Infants Health Programme