

26th March 2021

Deputy Cullinane,
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ Ref 15175/21 To ask the Minister for Health the number of women who have been sent via referral systems to the University College London Hospital, NHS England for the full removal of transobturator mesh implants since 2017, by type; 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.

As you may be aware, there are a number of alternative pathways in place in the Irish healthcare system by which patients can be referred abroad for treatment. These include the Treatment Abroad Scheme, the Cross Border Directive and private referrals made by consultants both within the public sector and private health care sector.

Unfortunately given the multitude of pathways in existence for referral for treatment abroad, it is not possible to provide the information requested at national level regarding referrals to any particular consultant or hospital abroad. Only consultants, individually, would hold this information about their patients.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours faithfully,



Mary-Jo Biggs
General Manager, National Women and Infants Health Programme