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April 13th 2021

Deputy Shortall
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ Ref 15636/21: To ask the Minister for Health the number of breast pumps available in each maternity unit.

Dear Deputy Shortall,

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 HSE is committed to supporting, promoting and protecting breastfeeding and optimum infant feeding practices for all mothers and babies. The HSE's Infant Feeding Policy for Maternity and Neonatal Services outlines the clinical practices and supports for optimising breast milk when mothers and babies are unable to feed directly from the breast.

Each hospital provides mothers with access to a hospital grade breast pump when needed and there are 225 hospital grade breast pumps available for use in postnatal and neonatal services. A minimum of 57 hospital grade breast pumps are available to loan to mothers of sick or premature babies admitted to Neonatal intensive care units and where the mother is discharged from hospital.

The table overleaf outlines the latest available information on the total number of breast pumps available in each maternity hospital/unit.

Hospital	Number of breast pumps available
Ireland East Hospital Group	
National Maternity Hospital Dublin	19
Wexford Hospital	3
St. Luke's Hospital Kilkenny	8
Midland Regional Hospital Mullingar Co Westmeath	9
Dublin Midlands Hospital Group	
Coombe Women and Infant's University Hospital Dublin	17
Midland Regional Hospital, Portlaoise	15
RCSI	
Rotunda Hospital Dublin	42
Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital Drogheda	12
Cavan General Hospital	10
University of Limerick Hospital Group	
University Maternity Hospital Limerick	11
Saolta Hospital Group	
University College Hospital Galway	17
Letterkenny General Hospital	4
Mayo General Hospital Castlebar	
Sligo General Hospital	1
Portiuncula Hospital Ballinasloe	5
South/ South West Hospital Group	
Cork University Maternity Hospital	43
South Tipperary General Hospital Clonmel	2
Kerry General Hospital	5
University Hospital Waterford	2
Total	225

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,



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