



20th April 2021

Deputy Holly Cairns,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 15913/21 – To ask the Minister for Health if the document regarding liaison officers will be made available for persons affected by the CervicalCheck scandal; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Holly Cairns

Dear Deputy Cairns,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for response.

While there is no specific document regarding liaison officers, documentation outlining the relevant packages of support has been made available to the women concerned individual to their circumstance. Following the government decision in May 2018 to make available a package of supports to those affected by the Cervical Check controversy the HSE made immediate arrangements to facilitate this. Liaison officers operate within this package of supports, which has been made available to women and their families who have been affected.

The HSE appointed Liaison Officers to support clients and their families affected by the issues relating to the Cervical Check service in each of the nine Community Healthcare Organisations (CHOs). From May 2018, CHO Liaison Officers initiated contact with, and met with clients affected by the Cervical Check issue to enable clients to access the package of supports. Liaison officers interact with their clients on an ongoing basis through a range of modes such as phone, email and face to face meetings as is suitable to each client with all supports being client led.

CHO Liaison Officers continue to facilitate eligible clients to access the range of supports as detailed by the Department of Health. All supports undertaken are client driven and put in place via the Liaison Officer as soon as is suitable to the client. Liaison Officers also provide support and advice, and assist clients in navigating and accessing health and social care supports appropriate to their needs.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yvonne O'Neill', written over a horizontal line.

Yvonne O'Neill,
Interim National Director,
Community Operations