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20th April 2021

Deputy Cairns,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ Ref 16958/21 To ask the Minister for Health the training offered to health professionals regarding the support needs of disabled persons accessing reproductive services; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Cairns,

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.

Obstetric services on the whole generally care for and manage young healthy persons, however the training programmes provided by educational providers in collaboration with service providers by means of clinical placements, also ensure that health care professionals are positioned and capable of managing the care requirements of persons presenting with specific needs, clinical or otherwise.

Therefore when a person presents with a disability, this is not so unusual that the system cannot adapt to the specific needs of that person and ensure that any additional requirements e.g. sign language requirements, mobility supports etc, are secured to ensure that the holistic needs of that person are met.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

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