



Fidhneannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Health Service Executive

Baile Átha Cliath & Lár Laighin

Dublin Mid-Leinster

Midland Regional Hospital Portlaoise

Co Laois

Telephone: 057 8621364

13th April 2021

Deputy David Cullinane TD

Dáil Éireann

Dublin

PQ 17367/21 - To ask the Minister for Health the status of maternity restrictions in the Midland Regional Hospital, Portlaoise; his plans to allow birthing partners attend scans and births; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Cullinane

I refer to the above parliamentary question above relating to maternity visiting restrictions at the Midland Regional Hospital Portlaoise

The pause in attendance of partners at anatomy scans was a challenging decision for maternity services at MRHP. However, due to the unique skills of the Ultra-sonographers and potential risk of reducing access for women to their anatomy scan, a decision was made to suspend partners attending during level 5 restrictions. This was guided by the increased levels of hospital admission's due to Covid 19 and markedly increased infection rates in the community. The Midland Regional Hospital Portlaoise have continued to facilitate partners attending for birth throughout the Covid 19 pandemic. This decision has been under regular review.

The maternity services have assessed the position as a result of additional measures now in place and have consequently decided to restore partners attending on Tuesday 6th of April. Visiting to the maternity unit remains unchanged at present.

I trust this clarifies this matter

Yours sincerely

Michael Knowles

General Manager