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14<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Deputy Canney,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ Ref 22748/21: To ask the Minister for Health the training programmes in place for doctors in Ireland in carrying out dilation and evacuation abortion procedures from the second trimester of pregnancy; the person or body providing such training; the location in which it is taking place; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Canney,

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.

Specialist training in obstetrics & gynaecology in Ireland and certification of same is provided by the Institute of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, as the postgraduate training body recognised by the Irish Medical Council for this purpose and not by the HSE itself. A comprehensive online training package has been developed and will be made available to all trainees and members. Training on abortion care has been included in the curriculum for all basic and specialty trainees in obstetrics and gynaecology.

The HSE does not have or hold specific details regarding these placements or details regarding the content of the further training being undertaken.

Apart from in exceptional circumstance, termination of pregnancy in the second trimester is carried out by administration of medication rather than by surgical means.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary-Jo Biggs'.

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