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Re. PQ 23714/21: To ask the Minister for Health the estimated cost of extending publicly funded fertility preservation services to children and adolescent cancer patients; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy O'Rourke

General Fertility preservation for the population is not available through the Irish public health service. As of February 2021, publicly funded onco-fertility services are provided to men and women with cancer at the private SIMS clinic in Swords. The agreement with the HSE was based on an historic agreement that was put in place with the former HARI Unit at the Rotunda.

There are multiple private providers of fertility services in Ireland and it is known, anecdotally, that some cancer patients attend these services for fertility preserving treatment due to the expected effects of their cancer treatment. Funding responsibility is discretionary and lies with HSE Acute Operations.

Merrion Fertility Clinic at the National Maternity Hospital, in collaboration with Children's Health Ireland, Crumlin, has since August 2018 provided a sperm and egg freezing service for adolescents and young adults who require gonadotoxic therapy. The clinic was awarded a research grant by the Irish Cancer Society in 2019. This is providing funding for 3 years (2020-2022) to develop and provide fertility preservation for children, adolescents and young adults.

Yours sincerely



Professor Risteárd Ó Laoide
National Director
National Cancer Control Programme