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1st July 2021

Deputy Nolan
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ Ref 24617/21 To ask the Minister for Health the status of commitments provided by the HSE to develop a national strategy for the provision of neonatal resuscitation training nationally; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Nolan

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.

With a view to developing a national strategy regarding the provision of neonatal resuscitation training nationally so as to ensure that our 19 maternity sites and services are supported to continue to provide good quality training in this area in line with national and international best practice, the National Women and Infants Health Programme have appointed a National Neonatal Resuscitation Programme Co-Ordinator to lead on this specific work programme. This role is supported by a National Neonatal Resuscitation Training Steering Committee under the auspices of NWIHP and the National Clinical Programme for Neonatology.

Working undertaken to date in this work programme includes the undertaking of a baseline assessment of resuscitation training across our 19 maternity services. This baseline is due to be published shortly and has informed greatly the next steps to be undertaken in this area including:

- The design and development of structured governance arrangements for the provision of neonatal resuscitation programme at national, regional and local level;
- The development of a suite of National Standards for the provision of neonatal resuscitation in Ireland that individual sites can benchmark themselves against; and
- In-depth audit of the equipment available per site to enable the delivery of neonatal resuscitation training so as to ensure that all 19 services have available to them the full range of equipment needed to ensure good quality training in this area.

The primary purpose of this work programme is to ensure that the provision of neonatal resuscitation training is co-ordinated and enhanced in the nineteen maternity hospitals and units in Ireland, with work in this area being undertaken in a collaborative manner with key stakeholders and experts.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,



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