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25th November 2021

Deputy Cairns,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ54446/21: To ask the Minister for Health the progress made on recommendation 8 of HIQA Overview report of the HIQA monitoring programme against the National Standards for Safer Better Maternity Services (details supplied*).

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.

In March 2020 HIQA released their '*Overview report of HIQA's monitoring programme against the National Standards for Safer Better Maternity Services, with a focus on obstetric emergencies*'. The report outlines 8 recommendations for the HSE. You have queried the progress made in regards to Recommendation 8.

Recommendation 8 outlines that:

The HSE should develop a plan for implementation of the recommendations of this national overview report. It should include clear actions and timelines for completion and include named persons with responsibility and accountability for implementation of these actions. Furthermore each individual maternity unit, hospital and hospital group should act to address any outstanding opportunities for improvement identified within their individual maternity unit or hospital report.

In 2021 the NWIHP prepared a time bound, action focused, implementation plan to drive the implementation of the HIQA Safer, Better Maternity Report Recommendations. This implementation plan was submitted to HSE CCO and EMT for review and endorsement.

The status of the implementation of recommendation 8 is:

- Current: Completed
- End Date: Q3 2021
- Key stakeholders: NWIHP

The revised implementation plan was launched by the Minister for Health on Friday 19th of November. The HIQA recommendations are captured within the revised implementation plan, and that plan is available on the link below.

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/acute-hospitals-division/woman-infants/national-maternity-strategy-revised-implentation-plan.pdf>.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,



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