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12th. October 2021

Deputy Holly Cairns TD Dail Eireann Kildare Street Dublin 2

## PQ 46144/21: To ask the Minister for Health when the HSE will resume in-person breastfeeding support groups.

Dear Deputy Cairns,

The above PQ has been forwarded to my Department for direct response to you on same.

In line with the recent government announcements on the easing of restrictions, in-person breastfeeding support groups are to resume from the 20<sup>th</sup> September. Guidance was issued to all areas in relation to the safe resumption of in-person breastfeeding support groups.

Some HSE breastfeeding support group services have resumed, many other HSE & voluntary groups will begin to return in person groups once the further easing of restrictions takes place at the end of October and suitable venues can accommodate groups again.

In line with service user demand, virtual breastfeeding support groups will also continue. This will make breastfeeding support groups more accessible to mothers for whom in person support is not a preferred option to them.

I trust this clarification will be of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

DR. KEVIN KELLEHER, FFPHM, FFPHMI
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