

Clár Sláinte Náisiúnta do Mhná & do Naíonáin Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte, Aonad 7A, Áras Dargan,An Ceantar Theas, Baile Átha Cliath 8 T: 076 695 9991

National Women and Infants Health Programme Health Service Executive, Unit 7A, The Dargan Building, Heuston South Quarter, Dublin 8 T: 076 695 9991

4th January 2023

Deputy Smith Dáil Éireann, Leinster House Dublin 2

PQ 60354/22: To ask the Minister for Health the number of women and babies who have been discharged into the care of homeless services from maternity hospitals in the past three months; and the number who have been discharged in need of emergency accommodation but with no accommodation to go to.

PQ 60355/22: To ask the Minister for Health if there are figures from the maternity hospitals on the number of additional nights stay that were necessary for women and children in maternity hospitals due to the mother and child having no accommodation to go to.

Dear Deputy Smith,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Representatives Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The data requested is not collected at national level. It is therefore not possible to prepare a report or make a statement on the matter.

However each maternity service has a social work service for which those requiring particular supports can be referred to. To date NWIHP has funded an additional 20.5 WTE in social work posts across the 6 maternity networks.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

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

