



Deputy Jennifer Whitmore
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

29th December 2022

PQ 62228/22 – To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide a detailed list of the number of home births registered with the HSE which were conducted in each of the years 2018 to 2021 and to date in 2022; and if he will make a statement on the matter

PQ 62229/22 – To ask the Minister for Health the number of home births registered with the HSE which were conducted in each of the years 2018 to 2021 and to date in 2022, inclusive by county; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Whitmore,

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

According to the National Perinatal Epidemiology Centre (NPEC) Planned Home Birth Triennial Report covering the years 2018, 2019 and 2020, 848 women registered for a home birth from January 1st 2018, to December 31st 2020. Of these, 489 women gave birth at home. NPEC have not yet published the 2021 or 2022 homebirth data.

The following table sets out the number of registered homebirths, per area, in 2018, 2019 and 2020 (*source: NPEC*);

Year	2018	2019	2020
Dublin NE	39	46	64
Dublin ML	41	66	104
West	27	27	35
South	108	122	127
South East	16	11	15
Total	231	272	345

The National Maternity Strategy (2016) 'Creating a Better Future Together' acknowledged that demand for homebirths exists and this need is reflective in this triennial report, with 848 women registered for homebirth from January 2018 to December 2020. At all times, the HSE Homebirth Service aims to deliver safe, quality care to normal risk eligible women and their families.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

John Smith,
Assistant National Director, Acute Operations.