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18<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Deputy Cullinane  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ 6571/22: To ask the Minister for Health his plans to provide specific funding to hire additional nurses and midwives across women's health and menopause care area; and if he will make a statement on the matter**

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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.

A key piece of work for the National Women's and Infants Health Programme for 2021 was working collaboratively with secondary care providers regarding the development of specialist menopause clinics on a regional basis. While it is envisaged that the vast majority of care in the area of menopause should be provided for in the primary setting, these speciality clinics will provide care for those whose symptoms require more specialist interventions. These clinics will accept referrals from GPs in their surrounding catchment areas, providing specialist medical advice and management to a cohort of symptomatic menopausal women.

The development of this specialist service was planned to roll-out on a phased basis. The first site for this specialist service was the National Maternity Hospital and with support from NWIHP, this clinic is fully operational as of December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

Looking forward to 2022, it is the intention of NWIHP to continue the phased development of three further sites to advance the establishment of this specialist service and develop a seamless scheduled care pathway in menopause care for women in Ireland spanning primary and secondary care. This will include the allocation of 2022 funding targeted at the development of menopause specialist services in Limerick, Galway and Cork.

The funding allocated to each of the three sites as well as the National Maternity Hospital in 2021 included funding for a full time Clinical Nurse Specialist in menopause.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

*M. Jo Biggs*

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