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27th June 2022

Deputy Nolan
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ Ref 30461/22: To ask the Minister for Health the number of failed medical abortions which required referral to hospitals for surgical abortion in 2019 and 2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Nolan,

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.

The HSE does not currently collate the above data on a national basis. Rather data on termination is collated by the Department of Health via the notification process. The Minister for Health must prepare a report on the notifications received in a given year not later than 30 June the following year and lay it before the Houses of the Oireachtas. This report may then be published. The most recent report covers the period from 1 January 2020 until 31st December 2020 and is available on www.gov.ie.

The HSE is in the process of establishing a service evaluation mechanism for termination of pregnancy services in both the Acute and Community settings. This work which is in an early stage, will be done in collaboration with the Department of Health, with a view to ensuring that the HSE is positioned to evaluate termination of pregnancy services at national level.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

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