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11th July 2022

Deputy Durkan
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ Ref 35228/22: To ask the Minister for Health the extent to which authentic statistics are available in respect of the termination of pregnancies at all hospitals throughout the country in each of the past six years, including those undertaken outside the State; the extent to which the 2019 legislation is being observed in the spirit of the letter; and if he will make a statement on the matter

Dear Deputy Durkan.

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 Health (Regulation of Termination of Pregnancy) Act 2018 was passed by the Houses of the Oireachtas and signed into law by the President in December 2018. The Health Service Executive commenced provision of an expanded termination of pregnancy services as provided for under this Act on 1st January 2019.

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 first two reports, for 2019 and 2020, can be found on the links below.

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/b410b-health-regulation-of-termination-of-pregnancy-act-2018-annual-report-on-notifications-2019/>

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/ef674-health-regulation-of-termination-of-pregnancy-act-2018-annual-report-on-notifications-2020/>

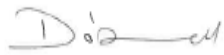
Each country collates figures for terminations carried out in their jurisdiction, therefore we would not hold statistics on terminations undertaken outside of the state. The figures published by the UK include figures for those from Ireland who have accessed their termination of pregnancy services. Their reports can be found on the link below.

https://www.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/abortion#research_and_statistics

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,



Davinia O'Donnell, General Manager, National Women and Infants Health Programme