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31st March 2022

Deputy Shortall,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ13750/22: To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 206 of 2 March 2022, the status of discussions with relevant parties regarding the role of general practitioners in relation to home births; the timeline he is working towards to resolve issues surrounding access to care; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Shortall,

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.

As set out in Parliamentary Question no 206 of 2nd March 2022, further discussions need to take place with relevant parties to agree national policy on the role of the GPs in relation to Homebirths. It is envisaged by NWIHP that these discussions will commence during the course of 2022 both as part of the work in relation to homebirths but also as part of the recommendation in the National Maternity Strategy (NMS) regarding a review of the Maternity and Infant Scheme being undertaken and any necessary adaptations made to reflect the Model of Care in the NMS.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

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