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Deputy Smyth  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ Ref 25130/22 To ask the Minister for Health the estimated full-year cost to develop a dedicated centre of excellence for complex gynaecological cases with a multi-disciplinary team on-site with referral pathways from regional clinics.**

Dear Deputy Smyth

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.

In recent years, the National Women and Infants Health Programme (NWIHP) in collaboration with the Department of Health, the Women's Health Task Force and the six maternity networks have commenced a significant work programme, which is targeting investment to increase capacity specifically within the area of gynaecological care for women.

Working with its key collaborators and stakeholders within the maternity networks, NWIHP is now focused on designing and investing in specific gynaecology services through the development and implementation of Models of Care to improve timely access. In so doing, individual and targeted gynaecology services are being established around the country and resourced in their own right e.g. menopause specialist clinics, regional fertility hubs, ambulatory gynaecology clinics, endometriosis specialist centres. One of the guiding principles of these Models of Care is in keeping with the Slaintecare ethos of 'right care, right place, right time' and they are devised to ensure that the woman can gain the appropriate treatment and management at the lowest level of clinical intervention and at the point of easiest access for the woman.

The NWIHP are committed to continue to develop and advance the aforementioned gynaecology initiatives across the continuum of care and to ensure that where clinically feasible and appropriate these services are delivered as close to the woman as possible. The NWIHP have developed and implemented regional, supra-regional and national services within the different areas of gynaecology to ensure care is available as clinically required.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

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