



Clár Sláinte Náisiúnta do Mhná & do Naíonáin
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte, Aonad 7A, Áras
Dargan, An Ceantar Theas, Baile Átha Cliath 8
T: 076 695 9991

National Women and Infants Health Programme
Health Service Executive, Unit 7A, The Dargan Building,
Heuston South Quarter, Dublin 8
T: 076 695 9991

2nd June 2022

Deputy Smyth,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ Ref 25141/22: To ask the Minister for Health the estimated full-year cost to commit to fully funding the National Maternity Strategy and its successor.

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 2017 the National Women and Infant Health Programme (NWIHP) produced a costed and time-bound plan to implement the National Maternity Strategy. This implementation plan indicated that NWIHP required an additional **€72.8m** over the 10-year life time of the strategy.

Between 2018 and 2021 NWIHP received **€42.2m** of service development funding. The table below outlines this funding and the purpose for which it was allocated.

| Year | Funding Allocated - In Year & Associated ELS | € million |
|-------------|---|---------------|
| 2018 | Maternity Developmental Funding | 12.1 |
| 2019 | TOP & Related Services Developmental Funding | 12 |
| 2020 | Maternity Developmental Funding | 1.5 |
| 2020 | Fertility Services Developmental Funding | 2 |
| 2021 | Maternity, Gynaecology & Fertility Developmental Funding | 12 |
| 2021 | Women's Health Taskforce - Ambulatory Gynaecology Services | 1.4 |
| 2021 | Women's Health Taskforce - Endometriosis Services | 0.64 |
| 2021 | Women's Health Taskforce - Perinatal Mental Health Services | 0.377 |
| 2021 | Women's Health Taskforce - Specialist Menopause Services | 0.2 |
| | Total | 42.217 |

As the table indicates, approximately **€19m** of the allocation was not specifically targeted for maternity services. However, NWIHP have invested all but €2m of the €42.2m in the 19 maternity units, which has helped to increase the number of consultant, midwifery and HSCP posts in these services and units and as such has a global benefit as many staff will work across both maternity and gynaecology e.g. consultants, physios, medical social workers etc.

In February 2020 HIQA issued their report into their standards for Better Safer Maternity Care. A recommendation of this report was that the HSE would develop an updated implementation plan that would be time-bound and fully costed.

The revised implementation plan has been costed on the same basis as the 2017 estimate – with a breakdown of WTEs for each grade and sub-grade category for each year 2021-2026. The cost estimate for 2021 -2026 is an additional **€43.7m**, which includes 10% provision for non-pay.

The revised estimate would fund an additional **458.5 WTEs**, including 64.5 consultants (OBGYN, neonatologists, anaesthesiologists etc.); 240 midwives across all grades; 107 health and social care professionals (mainly social workers, dieticians and physiotherapists); and 47 management administration staff (mainly admin support for maternity hospitals).

The revised implementation plan can be found on the HSE website at the below link.

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/acute-hospitals-division/woman-infants/national-maternity-strategy-revised-implentation-plan.pdf>

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,



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