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15th June 2022

Deputy Smyth,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ Ref 25182/22: To ask the Minister for Health the estimated full-year cost to establish a national expert working group to look at pre-term births to reduce neonatal mortality rates.

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 relation to the establishment of any HSE expert advisory group that NWIHP may convene, including an expert advisory group to look at pre-term births to reduce neonatal mortality rates, the membership would consist of those with expert knowledge who are currently employed and working within that field.

The costs associated with their membership is not additional, and instead they engage in these groups as an expansion of their role which is already funded. As a result of this, any additional costs would therefore be minimal in nature and would be managed within existing HSE budgets.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

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