

CC/BL/MC

Email: pgmidwestacute@hse.ie

16th November 2022

Mr Brian Leddin TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 55497/22

To ask the Minister for Health his views on restoring home birth services in the midwest region, following the suspension of such services by the UL Hospitals Group earlier in 2022; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Brian Leddin

Dear Deputy Leddin,

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.

The temporary suspension of the home birth service in the MidWest remains in effect. The small number of women who were due to have home births at the time of suspension were contacted by the hospital at the time in relation to the continuation of their care and all have since delivered.

This temporary suspension of the service is pending an external review following a recent maternal death. A group of external experts, including those with midwifery and obstetrics expertise has been assembled to conduct the review; looking at patient safety, clinical governance and any other issues arising. All expert personnel have been identified and the review is ongoing.

I trust this clarifies the position, please contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,



Prof Colette Cowan
Chief Executive Officer
UL Hospitals Group