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28th November 2022

Deputy Connolly
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ Ref 55962/22: To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 316 of 12 May 2022, when the ban on water births in the community will be lifted; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Connolly,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

In addition to what we have outlined to you with regards to Water Births in our previous response to your Parliamentary Question 23907/22 in May, I can report that NWIHP is currently recruiting for a project lead at national level to support maternity services in Ireland to plan for and deliver water births/water immersion as part of the ongoing implementation of the National maternity Strategy, with specific reference to extending the capacity of the supported care pathway.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

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