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22<sup>nd</sup> September 2022

Deputy Barry,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ 46190/22: To ask the Minister for Health the measures and initiatives that will be taken to better understand and to reduce still-birth and infant deaths among mothers of African background, and those in poorer social-economic groups following the publication of a report (details supplied) showing inequalities in mortality; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**Details Supplied: Unequal chances? Inequalities in mortality in Ireland | ESRI**  
<https://www.esri.ie/publications/unequal-chances-inequalities-in-mortality-in-ireland>

Dear Deputy Barry,

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.

The HSE is aware of the disproportionate over-representation of ethnic minority women in adverse maternity events in Ireland. Unfortunately, this is similar to the data in the UK and the US.

Every adverse event, particularly a maternal death, is the subject of an independent review, external to the relevant hospital group.

The HSE has written to the six maternity networks on two occasions, requesting that ethnicity be captured and considered as part of adverse event reviews.

In addition the HSE is planning to hold a series of engagements into different representative groups, to try and determine how to reduce the number of adverse events within this population.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

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