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11<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Deputy Cairns,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ 47340/22: To ask the Minister for Health the number of natal and maternal deaths in each maternity hospital and unit annually since 1 January 2015.**

Dear Deputy Cairns,

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.

Perinatal mortality rates are published in the publically available NPEC report, with the hospitals identified in the recent reports for 2018-2019. The 2020 is almost ready to publish awaiting DOH review. The NPEC reports are available at:

[https://www.ucc.ie/en/media/research/nationalperinatalepidemiologycentre/annualreports/NPECPerinatalMortalityinIrelandannualreport2018\\_2019contentinteractive.pdf](https://www.ucc.ie/en/media/research/nationalperinatalepidemiologycentre/annualreports/NPECPerinatalMortalityinIrelandannualreport2018_2019contentinteractive.pdf)

The Maternal Death Enquiry is linked to MBBRACE in the UK. MBRACE is a confidential enquiry system, and therefore individual hospitals are not named. However maternal deaths, as reported by the 19 maternity hospitals in Ireland, are captured in the Irish Maternity Indicator System (IMIS) National Reports.

IMIS defines ‘total maternal deaths’ as the *Number of deaths of women while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy, irrespective of the duration and site of the pregnancy, from any cause related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or its management but not from accidental or incidental causes occurring during the current month.*

The 2014 – 2020 IMIS reports are available at:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/acute-hospitals-division/woman-infants/national-reports-on-womens-health/>

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

