

9<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Deputy Catherine Murphy TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**RE: PQ 18794/23**

*To ask the Minister for Health if he and the HSE will reinstate full antenatal services at Naas General Hospital; if he will outline the rationale for scaling back the services; and if he will set out plans to establish a full-time antenatal service in Kildare; and if locations to hold them have been identified*

Dear Deputy Murphy

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

The Coombe clinic at Naas General Hospital provided a midwifery clinic and a consultant clinic. Anatomy scans were provided in Naas for those patients booking in Naas Clinic and these patients all delivered in the Coombe Hospital.

The Naas clinic was suspended at the request of the management in Naas General Hospital to facilitate management of Covid-19 patients in Naas General Hospital. It was always anticipated that the clinic would return at a point in the pandemic where it would be possible to regain access to the clinic space. As an interim solution, the Naas clinic consultant services were provided in the Coombe Hospital during this period and the Coombe Hospital community midwives identified clinical space in Newbridge and Celbridge to provide midwifery clinics in the area.

Following advice from management in Naas General Hospital, that the facilities previously available for the clinic can no longer be accessed, it has not been possible to date to find a clinically suitable alternative location in Naas where the same clinic could be provided. While the Coombe will continue to provide the midwifery clinics in Kildare, it would be necessary for the space previously available in Naas General Hospital or a suitable hospital type environment to be made available to reinstate the Consultant Led service.

Discussions on an alternative clinical space in Kildare for the resumption of the clinic have commenced and it is hoped this will come to a positive conclusion shortly.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Yours Sincerely



**Mr Trevor O' Callaghan**  
Chief Executive Officer

Teach Uisce an Droichid, Ionad Gnó Uisce an Droichid, Bóthar Conyngham, Dhroichead na hInse, Baile Átha Cliath D08 T9NH.