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21<sup>st</sup> February 2023

Deputy Canney,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ REF 5762/23: To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 649 of 23 November 2021, the number of live births that were registered of babies who survived the abortion procedure; and the number of death certificates that were issued between 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2022.**

Dear Deputy Canney,

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.

As stated in the response to you on ‘Question No. 649 of 23 November 2021’ this data is not collated nationally. Where a baby is stillborn or dies in the neonatal period, following a termination of pregnancy for fatal fetal anomaly, HSE guidance stipulates that the cause of death should be stated as that directly leading to the death, and also the antecedent causes or conditions which gave rise to this.

<https://www.rcpi.ie/Faculties-Institutes/Institute-of-Obstetricians-and-Gynaecologists/National-Clinical-Guidelines-in-Obstetrics-and-Gynaecology>

All infants delivered with a diagnosis of a life-limiting condition are provided with comfort care. The current legislation on registration of live births states that if an infant is born with signs of life, regardless of birthweight or gestational age, the birth is registered as a live birth. If the subsequent death of the infant occurs during the perinatal period, the death should be registered as a neonatal death.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

**Davinia O'Donnell, General Manager, National Women and Infants Health Programme**

