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21st February 2023

Deputy Nolan
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ Ref 7259/23: To ask the Minister for Health the total amount spent by the State across all possible categories, in tabular form, on abortion provision in 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Nolan,

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 Termination of Pregnancy Service was first introduced on January 1st, 2019 following the 2018 referendum on the 8th Amendment. The Service commenced with eight hospitals, approximately 200 GPs and community providers i.e. Well Women and Irish Family Planning Association. The service expanded with additional hospitals and GPs coming on board, so that currently there are 11 hospitals and 413 termination of pregnancy providers in the community. This includes 403 GP contractors and 10 women's health services contractors.

In relation to the spend within the acute hospital sector regarding the development and roll-out of termination services, the acute hospital system was allocated €7 million in 2019 to support the roll-out of termination services. In 2020, a further additional €9.5 million was allocated for the provision of termination services under the Health (Regulation of Termination of Pregnancy) Act 2018, comprising of €5 million existing level service funding for the acute hospital sector in relation to the provision of this service. The remainder of the additional funding was allocated to fund and support the continued provision and expansion of the delivery of termination of pregnancy services in the community setting, including €1 million funding provided for crisis pregnancy counselling and information helpline service and €1 million funding for on-going communication campaigns.

Since 2019, a total of €12m has been invested to support the introduction and further roll-out of termination of pregnancy services in maternity hospitals/units. This funding provided for the recruitment of 73 staff across a number of disciplines, including: consultants (e.g. obstetrician/gynaecologists, anaesthetists, histopathologists); NCHDs; nursing and midwifery (e.g. staff nurses and midwives, clinical midwifery/nurse managers, ANPs, bereavement specialists); ultrasonographers; medical scientists; and administration.

Recruitment of the vast majority of these WTE (i.e. 69) was approved on the back of new development funding provided in 2019. A further four consultant obstetrician/gynaecologists are being recruited this year as part of the broader plan to ensure all regional maternity units have six consultant obstetricians in place.[1]

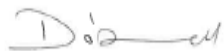
The table below provides an overarching breakdown at a national level of the approved WTEs and the recruitment status in each staff cohort.

Table 1. *Approved WTEs for termination of pregnancy services in acute hospitals*

Posts	Grand Total
Consultants/Medics	27
Midwives/Nurses	24
Health and Social Care Professionals	14
Administrative Posts	8
Grand Total	73

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,



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