



Príomhoifigeach Cliniciúil
Oifig an Phríomhoifigigh Cliniciúil

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BY EMAIL ONLY

Deputy Holly Cairns
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

10th February 2023

PQ3128/23- Deputy Holly Cairns- To ask the Minister for Health if a group has been established by his office or any other institution of his Department or HSE for the purpose of carrying out investigations into maternal deaths; if so, if he can clarify the rationale for such a group; the reason that such investigations are not conducted, as a matter of course, by HIQA; the budget for this group; the source from which it is allocated; the way that the group is constituted, including membership and governance structures; the person or body that the group reports; if the establishment of the group has been subject to Houses of the Oireachtas or Cabinet-approval; and when reports and finding of the group will be made public.

Dear Deputy Cairns,

Thank you for your representation.

When a direct maternal death occurs, the hospital is mandated to report the event to the following:

- The Hospital Group
- Confidential Maternal Death Enquiry
- National Perinatal Reporting Service
- Coroner
- Escalated to the Department of Health via Acute Operations QPS

The HSEs Incident Management Framework requires that all direct maternal deaths, which are categorised as extreme events, are subject to a full systems analysis review external to the hospital group where the death occurred. This means that the clinical team that review the care to the women are not part of any hospital within the governance of the Hospital Group, when the maternal death occurred.

Following a maternal death in 2016, it was recommended that the National Women & Infants Health Programme (NWIHP) be advised of all direct maternal deaths. It was recommended that the NWIHP would advise the local hospital on the clinical composition of the expert systems analysis review team to ensure comprehensive and credible review reports were produced with the appropriate externality and knowledge. As part of NWIHP's role, they also



receive copies of the final approved reviews, including any recommendations, and these recommendations will then be shared nationally.

I hope this provides you with some assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sharon Hayden', written in a cursive style.

Sharon Hayden
General Manager
Office of the CCO