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19th January 2023

Deputy Whitmore
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 63188/22: To ask the Minister for Health if he will define the term 'blue-light distance' when used in the context of maternity service, in particular the provision of home birth supports; if this is a term used by the National Ambulance Service; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 63190/22: To ask the Minister for Health if he will detail the studies, analysis and evidence used to support the decision of the HSE to limit, due to safety concerns, all home-birth services outside a 30-minute blue-light distance from their nearest maternity service; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Whitmore,

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

The National Women and Infants Health Programme has previously issued Deputy Whitmore with a response to these questions in our answer to PQ's 62224/22 and 62226/22 on the 4th January 2023.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

Mary-Jo Biggs, General Manager, National Women and Infants Health Programme