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04th July 2023

Deputy Lahart
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 30050/23: To ask the Minister for Health if the Health Service Executive has established an implementation group to progress the operational recommendations made in the Report of the Independent Review of the operation of the Health (Regulation of Termination of Pregnancy) Act 2018; the chair and membership of the group; its relationship with the Clinical Advisory Forum on termination of pregnancy services; and if he will make a statement on the matter

Dear Deputy Lahart,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position on the various areas and issues you raised.

The HSE has reviewed the O'Shea Report, and identified the recommendations that relate to the operation of the service. The HSE's NWIHP is in the process of drafting terms of reference and agreeing membership of the TOP Review Implementation Group. This implementation group will be responsible for ensuring the recommendations are appropriately addressed.

A draft implementation action plan has been developed containing a number of work streams. The objectives, actions and plan of work for each specific planned work-stream will be finalised in collaboration with the members of each work-stream. The Implementation Group will be chaired by the NWIHP Director and the National Implementation Group will be multi-disciplinary, comprising of healthcare professionals across the TOP pathway and service users with lived experience of TOP services. It is anticipated that the first meeting of the Implementation Group will take place in September this year. Some members of the HSE's Clinical advisory forum may also be members of the implementation group.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

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