

Clár Sláinte Náisiúnta do Mhná & do Naíonáin

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National Women and Infants Health Programme

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18th July 2023

Deputy Michael Collins Dáil Éireann, Leinster House Dublin 2

PQ 31100/23: To ask the Minister for Health the number of initial consultations for termination of pregnancy services that were provided by general practitioners, family planning clinics and women's health clinics in 2022; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Michael Collins

Dear Deputy Collins,

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 Health (Regulation of Termination of Pregnancy) Act 2018 was passed by the Houses of the Oireachtas and signed into law by the President in December 2018. The Health Service Executive commenced provision of an expanded termination of pregnancy services as provided for under this Act on 1st January 2019.

The Department of Health does not have direct access to the reimbursement databases of the HSE for data protection and GDPR reasons.

In March 2023, the HSE had received 8844 claims in relation to 2022. This data which was on file in the Department was utilised in PQ 32372/23.

By May 2023, the HSE had received 8876 claims in relation to 2022. This number was utilised in PQ 21931/23 which was responded to by the HSE.

The current (July 2023) number of claims received in relation to 2022 is unchanged since May 2023 and remains 8876 claims.

To avoid any future issues the HSE and the Department of Health have agreed that all queries in relation to PCRS claims will be referred for direct response so as to ensure the most up to date information is used at all times. In circumstances where data on file is utilised the date of the report will be included for reference and to avoid any confusion.

The HSE and Department of Health apologise for any inconvenience caused in relation to the numbers provided.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

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