



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta
Géaroibríochtaí

Aonad 4A, Áras Dargan, An Ceantar Theas,
An Bóthar Míleata, Cill Mhaighneann, Baile
Átha Cliath 8, D08 NN9V

Office of the National Director
Acute Operations

Unit 4a, the Dargan Building, Heuston
South Quarter, Military Road,
Kilmainham, Dublin 8, D08 NN9V

www.hse.ie
[@hselive](https://twitter.com/hselive)

t 01 795 9971
e acute.operations@hse.ie

14th April 2023

Deputy Violet-Anne Wynne
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ15780/23 To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 348 of 9 March 2023, the effect the relocation of homebirth services from community operations to acute operations will have on rural women; and if he will make a statement on the matter. - Violet-Anne Wynne

Dear Deputy Wynne,

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.

As set out previously by the HSE in its response to PQ 12182/23, the home birth service is delivered on behalf of the HSE by self-employed community midwives. This service continues, and is now provided under the governance of the relevant Hospital Group and its acute maternity services. This service is delivered in accordance with a range of HSE defined clinical guidelines and parameters.

Each application to the service by a woman located in either a rural or urban setting is assessed and reviewed by HSE on a case by case taking into an account a range of factors and considerations. Such factors include the medical history of the woman, existence or otherwise of co-morbidities, previous pregnancy and birthing history, availability of second SECM to attend birth if approved and transfer time to nearest acute maternity services. All factors assessed have been identified by the HSE with a view to ensuring the provision of a safe and quality service to be provided to a woman and her baby.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

John Smith
Assistant National Director
Acute Operations