



Clár Sláinte Náisiúnta do Mhná & do Naíonáin  
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte, Aonad 7A, Áras  
Dargan, An Ceantar Theas, Baile Átha Cliath 8  
T: 076 695 9991

National Women and Infants Health Programme  
Health Service Executive, Unit 7A, The Dargan Building,  
Heuston South Quarter, Dublin 8  
T: 076 695 9991

18<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Deputy Burke  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ 20994/23: To ask the Minister for Health if following the National Maternity Strategy, if a national policy has been agreed on the role of GPs in relation to homebirths; if a review of the maternity and infant scheme has taken place in relation to homebirths; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Peter Burke**

**PQ 22939/23: To ask the Minister for Health if he has a timeline for the publication of the current review of the maternity and infant care scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. - Peter Burke**

Dear Deputy Burke,

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 Maternity and Infant Care Scheme provides for a shared model of care between GP's and Hospital Obstetricians. This agreed programme of care to all expectant mothers ordinarily resident in Ireland, entitles and encourages women to receive their antenatal care as part of this shared model. Under this Scheme, GPs are contracted to provide a schedule of consultation to the expectant mother and baby (universal) during the pre and postnatal stages. This forms part of a combined obstetric model of care involving the expectant mothers Obstetrician/Midwife.

In regards to the role of the GP's in relation to homebirths, the HSE are not the employers of GP's although we work closely in collaboration with them. A review of the Maternity and Infant Care Scheme is currently under way as part of the National Maternity Strategy, this review will incorporate the role of the GP in relation to homebirths.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

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