



Clár Sláinte Náisiúnta do Mhná & do Naíonáin  
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte, An Foirgneamh  
Brunel, An Ceantar Theas, Baile Átha Cliath D08 X01F  
T: 076 695 9991

National Women and Infants Health Programme  
Health Service Executive, The Brunel Building, Heuston  
South Quarter, Dublin D08 X01F  
T: 076 695 9991

30<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Deputy Fitzpatrick  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ 16427/24: To ask the Minister for Health the reason minutes are not being kept of the meetings of the Implementation Group examining the operation of the Health (Regulation of Pregnancy) Act 2018; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**PQ 16429/24: To ask the Minister for Health to provide the list of the service/advocacy groups which have been, or are scheduled to be, involved in the work of the National Termination of Pregnancy Service Improvement Group; the criteria by which these groups have been identified and selected; and whose decision it is to select a prospective group to participate in progressing the work of the TOP Service Improvement Group.**

Dear Deputy Fitzpatrick,

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 purpose of the National Termination of Pregnancy (TOP) Service Improvement Group is to oversee and support the implementation of the operational recommendations arising from the O'Shea Review and the separate Review of the Safety and Management of Termination of Pregnancy Services, as provided under Section 11 of the Act. Two meetings have taken place to date.

It is essential to consider the context and purpose of meetings when deciding whether to record only attendees and actions or full minutes. The meetings of the Termination of Pregnancy Service Improvement Group are action orientated and therefore the approach adopted i.e. capturing agreed actions and attendance is deemed sufficient in this regard.

In relation to part two of your request, representatives from Leanbh Mo Chroí are included on the membership of the TOP SIG. Leanbh Mo Chroí is a registered charity which provides non-directive practical information, advice and support to anyone considering their options following a poor pregnancy diagnosis, including ending a pregnancy for a medical reason. In addition, NWIHP has contacted the National Womens Council and other relevant organisations seeking service user nominees who may have an interest in joining the membership of the Group. This process is ongoing.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

*D. O'Donnell*

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