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03/04/2024

Deputy Kehoe
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 11625/24: To ask the Minister for Health the amount spent on infant formula in maternity hospitals in 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Kehoe,

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 amount spent in maternity hospitals in relation to infant formula in 2023 is not available on a national basis. However, the available data on infant feeding on discharge from hospitals suggests that approximately 40% of babies are exclusively formula feed. The HSE as part of its postnatal care package to women and their babies provides the infant formula in maternity hospitals and units for those babies.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

MaryJo Biggs, General Manager, National Women and Infants Health Programme