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**BY EMAIL ONLY**

Deputy Pádraig Rice  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

27<sup>th</sup> May 2025

**PQ15767/25-To ask the Minister for Health if she will conduct a review into a number of inquests and High Court cases (details supplied); if not, her reasoning; the research, if any, her department has undertaken into the role of a technique in avoidable baby deaths since 2013; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Pádraig Rice**

Dear Deputy Rice,

Thank you for your representation.

Fetal monitoring is the process of assessing a baby while in the uterus during labour. Monitoring the baby's heart rate can be intermittent or continuous and forms one of a number of processes for assessing the baby's well-being during labour. Cardiotocograph (CTG) is a very common tool for monitoring a baby's heart during labour. Despite the fact that CTGs are in widespread use in developed countries, as a tool it has known limitations. CTG should be used in conjunction with other tools, such as vaginal examinations and the partogram to assess progress in labour.

The HSE is currently finalising a new fetal monitoring guideline. The guideline process reviewed the evidence around CTG monitoring and concluded that despite the known limitations CTG use should be considered as a tool for providing information on the fetal condition.

Yours sincerely

Sharon Hayden  
General Manager  
Office of the Chief Clinical Officer