



Príomhoifigeach Cliniciúil  
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**BY EMAIL ONLY**

Deputy Pádraig Rice  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

12<sup>th</sup> May 2025

**PQ15769/25-To ask the Minister for Health the basis for the HSE's current definition of perinatal mortality rate for the purposes of inclusion on maternity patient safety statements (details supplied); the body that agreed this definition; the reason for this limited definition; and if she will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Rice,

Thank you for your representation.

The current Perinatal mortality rate definition (legislation changed since August 2024) is that all stillborn babies and Neonatal deaths up to 7 completed days of life born at or after a gestation of 23weeks and/or  $\geq 400g$ . This has been chosen to align with the definition used across most developed countries of 22 weeks gestation and 400g. Traditionally countries with no access to termination of pregnancy have corrected prenatal deaths for major congenital anomaly to better compare to countries where such babies were more often born after termination and not included in the Perinatal Mortality Rate.

I hope that this provides you with assistance.

Yours sincerely

Sharon Hayden  
General Manager  
Office of the Chief Clinical Officer