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Deputy Carthy,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ 4895/25: To ask the Minister for Health if hospital groups are required to publish a maternity safety statement; the cadence at which they may be required to do so; their adherence to any such requirement since January 2024 to date; the reason any such requirement may not have been met, by hospital group, by month, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter**

Dear Deputy Carthy,

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.

Maternity Safety Statements are published for each of the country's 19 maternity hospitals and units. Each of the 19 hospitals and units prepare and publish an updated statement on monthly basis, ordinarily 2 to 3 months in arrears to enable the collation and validation of the relevant data required at local level.

As per the original requirement, the 19 services are required to publish their statements on their relevant websites. However the HSE, for ease of public reference, collates these statements and makes them available also at the following link : [Maternity Patient Safety Statements - HSE.ie](https://www.hse.ie/eng/health/maternal/mat_safety_statements.aspx)

Adherence to the publication requirements of these statement is high across the 19 services, with any ad-hoc delays being experienced in relation to the publication of these statements by any individual maternity services being primarily related to key personnel being on leave in terms of the required steps of data collection, validation and sign off before publication.

As noted by the HSE, the objective of publishing these statements is to provide public assurance that maternity services are delivered in an environment that promotes open disclosure. It is intended that reporting in an honest and open way helps build trust and improves clinical performance and the culture of safety. The Maternity Safety Statement contains information on 17 metrics covering a range of clinical activities, major obstetric events, modes of delivery and clinical incidents. While all maternity hospitals collect a large range of information and data on an ongoing basis, these particular metrics have been selected on the basis that they are clinically robust, relevant and underpinned by standardised definitions.

Like all performance measurements, the data should be interpreted with caution particularly when reporting low numbers which may vary naturally from month to month and are influenced by case complexity.

It is not intended that the monthly Maternity Safety Statements be used as a comparator with other units or that they would be aggregated at Hospital Group or national level. It is important to note tertiary and referral maternity centres will care for a higher complexity of mothers and babies as such rates of clinical activity and outcomes for these tertiary centres will be higher and therefore these should not be compared with units that do not look after such referred complex cases.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

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