



27/02/2025

Deputy Sherlock,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 5906/25: To ask the Minister for Health the status of the national endometriosis framework; when it will be published; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 5907/25: To ask the Minister for Health the status of the additional staff to implement the national endometriosis framework; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 5908/25: To ask the Minister for Health the status of the five regional endometriosis hubs and two specialist endometriosis centres for complex care which have been established; where the staff recruitment process is at; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 5911/25: To ask the Minister for Health the number of women on waiting lists for excision surgery for endometriosis; the length of the waiting times in view of the fact that any undue delay to this type of surgery may impact severely on women's reproductive health, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 6724/25: To ask the Minister for Health the number of additional staff that have required to implement the National Endometriosis Framework; the number of posts already filled; the number remaining vacant; the plans to fill these vacancies; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Sherlock,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Endometriosis is one of the most common gynaecological conditions in Ireland and approximately 1 in 10 women may have this condition. There is a wide range of symptoms associated with this condition and therefore, the burden of disease varies from person to person.

Some women may have endometriosis that goes undetected, as symptoms are unbothersome, while for others, endometriosis can have a significant impact on a woman's quality of life. Often symptoms are overlapping and women are dealing with chronic pain which is usually caused by a combination of physical, psychological and/or social factors rather than originating from a single underlying condition.

The National Framework developed by NWIHP regarding the management of endometriosis in Ireland aims to represent a change in the approach to the management of endometriosis, recognising and highlighting endometriosis as a priority area for service improvement. The Framework is expected to be published in Q2 of this year.

During the course of its work, NWIHP via its Clinical Director had the opportunity to meet with the Endometriosis Association of Ireland (EAI) at a meeting with the Minister. At this meeting NWIHP, in tandem with the NCHD/ICGP leads for women's health listened to the concerns of the of the EAI representatives.

In devising the Framework, NWIHP have identified an overarching model of care that commences in primary care and extends along into secondary and specialist complex care in a structured and standardised manner. The six maternity networks in place will be the basic building block upon which this pathway will develop thereby enabling these care pathways to be integrated into existing obstetrics and gynaecological services.

In developing this Framework and overseeing the investment programme underpinning it, it is recognised by NWIHP that this is the start of a journey in Ireland regarding developing and implementing more robust, structured and resourced care pathways for women with endometriosis. It is important to note that the framework developed was led by the clinical expertise of lead consultants in this area. These leads based on their years of expertise, treatment, management and advocacy for women's health ensure that the framework adopted a holistic approach to care and acknowledges that women with endometriosis experience and manage the condition in an individualised manner.

As such NWIHP, working closely and collaboratively with the six maternity networks and front line clinical teams, will be reviewing and monitoring the impact of the National Framework and the associated additional resources being allocated, with a view to identifying what further work may be needed in this critical care area in the future.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

Mary-Jo Biggs, General Manager, National Women and Infants Health Programme