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01/07/2025

Deputy Ní Raghallaigh
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 29880/25: To ask the Minister for Health the number of young people born with Down syndrome each year for the last five years by county, in tabular form.

Dear Deputy Ní Raghallaigh,

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.

Down syndrome is a common congenital chromosomal anomaly. It is found worldwide. Down syndrome occurs when there is one extra copy of chromosome 21 in each cell. As per Down syndrome Ireland, it is estimated that there are approximately seven thousand people in Ireland with Down syndrome with it being further estimated that one baby with Down syndrome is born out of every 444 births.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

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