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Deputy Collins
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 9429/25: To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 2207 of 23 July 2024, which states that "the HSE is currently working to define quality measures and implement data collection mechanisms for termination of pregnancy nationally", if she will provide specific information on the steps being taken by the responsible group within the HSE to improve and implement accurate and effective data collection mechanisms; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Collins,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been asked to respond directly to your Parliamentary Questions submitted to the Minister for Health. I have reviewed the matter, and the following outlines the current position on the issues you raised.

A comprehensive programme of work is underway to implement the recommendations from the Independent Review of the Health (Regulation of Termination of Pregnancy) Act. One key recommendation calls for the Department of Health and the HSE to define quality measures and data collection mechanisms for termination of pregnancy services nationally.

The HSE recognises the importance of effective monitoring and evaluation in ensuring high-quality services, identifying trends, and informing service improvements. In response, the National Women and Infants Health Programme (NWIHP), in collaboration with the National Perinatal Epidemiological Centre (NPEC), has developed and is piloting a termination of pregnancy (TOP) proforma and associated data collection system, initially focusing on hospital-based services.

To oversee data governance, a TOP Data Governance Group has been established. This group provides guidance on data collection, use, quality, and protection, with representation from all six HSE regions and other key stakeholders.

Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to reach out. I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

Davinia O'Donnell, General Manager, National Women and Infants Health Programme