



22 October 2025

**BY EMAIL ONLY**

Deputy Barry Ward

Dáil Éireann

Leinster House

Kildare Street

Dublin 2

**Re: PQ54313/25 - To ask the Minister for Health the position regarding the total funding requested by HSE for breastfeeding related supports for Budget 2025; the percentage of the total amount requested that was granted; and if she will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Ward

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question which has been referred by the Minister for Health to the Health Service Executive for direct response.

In preparation of estimates in 2024, the Dept of Health Obesity Policy leads within the Health and Wellbeing unit contacted the HSE to request what additional breastfeeding supports required funding for Budget 25. The table below outlines the bids submitted to the Dept of Health, and the funding allocated in Budget 25.

| Area                                    | Full year<br>costs submitted<br>€m | Budget 25 allocation €m |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Grant funding to voluntary groups       | 0.06                               | N/A                     |
| Breast pumps                            | 0.964                              | 0.3                     |
| Infant feeding/lactation posts          | 0.635                              | 0.39                    |
| level 9 infant feeding/lactation course | 0.3                                | N/A                     |
|                                         | 1.959                              | 0.69                    |

If you require any further information or clarification, please do contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Dr John Cuddihy

National Director of Public Health

MCRN: 16227