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6th October 2025

Deputy Cooney
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 50012/25: To ask the Minister for Health the full-year costs to fund three extra continence clinics to tackle the waiting list for surgery through specialised small units and enable general access to pelvic physiotherapy when required.

Dear Deputy Cooney,

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.

Referrals to secondary-level services for female continence issues are encompassed within the broader general gynaecology service structure. Each hospital or service operates with differing levels of demand, referral patterns, and case mix, reflecting local population needs and service capacity. Following referral triage, the management of women presenting with continence-related symptoms is typically delivered within the framework of urogynaecology, a recognised subspecialty of general gynaecology.

Female continence issues commonly arise in association with pelvic floor weakness, pelvic organ prolapse, hormonal changes, or the effects of childbirth and previous pelvic surgery. As these presentations often overlap with other gynaecological conditions, continence care is appropriately managed within general or subspecialist (urogynaecology) services rather than through stand-alone clinics. Therefore, costings relating to continence services is subsumed within general gynaecology cost base. Given the integrated nature of staffing, clinic time, and resource utilisation, estimating costs specific to continence-focused clinics is not routinely undertaken

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

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