

CC/ML/MC

Email: pgmidwestacute@hse.ie

25th March 2024

Mr Michael Lowry TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 50428/24

To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 247, concerning homebirth services in north Tipperary and CHO3, when the services were suspended on a temporary basis in CHO3; when the external review of the homebirth services commenced; how long is the external review expected to take; when the review will be completed and its findings made public; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Michael Lowry

Dear Deputy Lowry,

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.

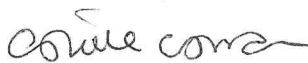
The Home Birth service in the Midwest has been suspended since June 2022 pending the outcome of an external review, which is ongoing. Policies, Procedures, Protocols and Guidelines on Home Births are available on the HSE website. See the following link for information:

<https://www2.hse.ie/pregnancy-birth/pregnancy-care/home-births/https://www2.hse.ie/pregnancy-birth/pregnancy-care/home-births/>

A decision on when the pause in the home birth service in the Midwest will be lifted will be taken following receipt of the external review and consideration of any recommendations therein. We regret this disruption in service to women and their families. Unfortunately, we are at present unable to give a precise timeline as to when this review will be complete.

I trust this clarifies the position, please contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Colette Cowan
Chief Executive Officer
UL Hospitals Group