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23<sup>rd</sup> April 2024

Deputy Nolan  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ 13973/24: To ask the Minister for Health to provide an outline on the current status of the Implementation Group examining the operation of the Health (Regulation of Termination of Pregnancy) Act 2018; to provide an outline of the number of occasions it has met to date; a timeline for when it is to report to Government; if an outline of its remit can be provided; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Nolan,

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.

A National Termination of Pregnancy (TOP) Service Improvement Group has been established. The purpose/function of the Group is to oversee and support the implementation of the recommendations arising from:

- a) The Review of the Safety and Management of Termination of Pregnancy Services, as provided under Section 11 of the Health Regulation of Termination of Pregnancy Act; and
- b) The Independent Review of the Health Regulation of Termination of Pregnancy Act 2018. (All provisions)

The TOP Service Improvement Group have had two meetings to date. Ten work-streams have been established and 12 sub-group meetings have taken place to date. A programme of work for each of the ten work-streams has been identified and will be kept under review. The timeline the group will be working to will be determined once the work-streams have been fully scoped. The TOP Service Improvement Group report to the office of the Chief Clinical Officer.

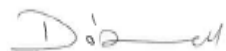
The purpose of the National TOP Service Improvement Group is to oversee and support the implementation of the recommendations arising from:

- The Review of the Safety and Management of Termination of Pregnancy Services, as provided under Section 11 of the Health Regulation of Termination of Pregnancy Act; and
- The Independent Review of the Health Regulation of Termination of Pregnancy Act 2018. (All provisions)

The National TOP Service Improvement Group will be multi-disciplinary, comprising of healthcare professionals across the TOP pathway and service users with lived experience of TOP services.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,



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