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10th April, 2024

Neasa Hourigan T.D. Dáil Éireann Leinster House Kildare Street Dublin 2

PQ ref. 14489/24

To ask the Minister for Health his plans to reopen the HSE homebirth service to serve the Leitrim area; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Hourigan

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which was forwarded to the Chief Officer Community Healthcare Cavan Donegal Leitrim Monaghan Sligo for response.

I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position in Community Healthcare Cavan Donegal Leitrim Monaghan and Sligo.

There has not been a request for a home birth in County Leitrim for a number of years. To the best of my knowledge, there are no self-employed Community Midwives working in Leitrim.

If an expectant mother secured the services of a self-employed Community Midwife in Leitrim and was risk assessed as being eligible and suitable for inclusion in the HSE Home Birth Service, she would be facilitated.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Mandy Doyle Head Of Service Primary Care CHO1

Ceannasaí Seirbhíse, Seirbhísí Cúram Príomhúil An Cabhán, Muineachán, Sligeach, Liatroim & Dún na nGall

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