



Clár Sláinte Náisiúnta do Mhná & do Naíonáin
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte, An Foirgneamh
Brunel, An Ceantar Theas, Baile Átha Cliath D08 X01F
T: 076 695 9991

National Women and Infants Health Programme
Health Service Executive, The Brunel Building, Heuston
South Quarter, Dublin D08 X01F
T: 076 695 9991

28th February 2024

Deputy Cairns
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 6993/24: To ask the Minister for Health if the protocol for treatment of patients following a miscarriage can be reviewed in order to facilitate privacy or separate areas for scans or check-ups, as being treated in a room alongside pregnant people can be incredibly distressing to those who have experienced miscarriage.

Dear Deputy Cairns,

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.

The Pregnancy Loss Research Group (PLRG) did a piece of work last year where they profiled maternity hospitals/units across the country, specifically looking at the physical spaces which have been developed to better provide for and support people who experience pregnancy loss. The full suite of case studies/profiles are available on the Pregnancy and Infant Loss website:

<https://pregnancyandinfantloss.ie/case-studies-hospital-spaces/>

All maternity hospitals/units now have access to quiet rooms/spaces onsite and do endeavour to use these dedicated spaces when delivering bad news about a pregnancy however, infrastructural and other constraints mean that these spaces are limited, particularly in areas such as Outpatients, Emergency Rooms and Fetal Assessment Units. It therefore may not always be possible to accommodate all women/parents. In relation to scheduling of clinics, maternity hospitals/units make every effort to run clinics at different times for women experiencing pregnancy loss, although due to the size of some units this is unfortunately not always practicable.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

MaryJo Biggs General Manager, National Women and Infants Health Programme