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25th January 2024

Deputy Nolan
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 1187/24 To ask the Minister for Health to provide a copy of the implementation action plan, drafted to implement operational recommendations contained in the termination of pregnancy review; 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 inaugural meeting of the TOP Service Improvement Group took place on the 4th of October 2023. Ten work-streams have been identified, the objectives, actions and plan of work for each specific planned work-stream will be finalised in collaboration with the members of each work-stream. The timeline the group will be working to will be determined once the work-streams have been fully scoped.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

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