



31st October 2024

Deputy Róisín Shortall, TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 43550/24

To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 302 of 8 February 2024, to provide an update on the development of a new model of care for gender healthcare, and an implementation plan for its delivery; the timeline for same; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Shortall,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in relation to the above parliamentary question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have consulted with the National Clinical Advisor and Group Lead for Children and Young People (NCAGL C&YP) and the Gender Healthcare Programme on your question and have been informed that the following outlines the position.

A Clinical Lead has been appointed and recruitment processes are continuing for a Health and Social Care Profession (HSCP) Lead, a Nurse Lead and Programme Manager. who together will form the Gender Healthcare Programme team.

The Gender Healthcare Programme will develop an updated clinical model of care for gender healthcare services for the Irish population. It is expected that this work will take approximately 2 years and will inform an implementation plan for its delivery. The model of care will be developed in a consultative way, engaging with stakeholders, healthcare professionals working in the area of gender healthcare, service users and their families.

The initial work will involve carrying out an evidence-based review of current research. Emerging and evolving international evidence, including evidence on the use of puberty blockers and reports such as the Cass report from the UK, will be reviewed as part of this work.

There is no requirement for the outcome of this work to be aligned with the approach of any particular organisation and the outcome will be informed and guided by the needs of people living in Ireland. As the work will be led by best evidence, guidance will also change and evolve over the coming years, as the evidence base develops.

HSE is committed to building a service in Ireland for the Irish population that is based on experience and clinical evidence, respect, inclusiveness and compassion.

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

Anne Horgan
General Manager