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20<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Deputy Nolan  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ 35272/24: To ask the Minister for Health the total cost of payments made to all providers of termination of pregnancy services for completed abortion procedures from 1 January 2024 to date; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**PQ 35273/24: To ask the Minister for Health the total amount spent by the State across all possible categories on abortion provision in 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022, 2023 and to date in 2024, in tabular form; 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.

The Health (Regulation of Termination of Pregnancy) Act 2018 was passed by the Houses of the Oireachtas and signed into law by the President in December 2018. The Health Service Executive commenced provision of an expanded termination of pregnancy services as provided for under this Act on 1st January 2019.

Provided below is a breakdown of the funding allocations for TOP services since the service commenced on the 1st of January 2019.

- 2019 – €11.5 million, which encompassed €7 million for implementation of the service in acute hospitals and €4.5 million for implementation of the service in the community.
- 2020 – €9.5 million. In 2020, an additional €5 million was provided for implementation of the service in acute hospitals and an additional €4.5 million for implementation of the service in the community.

With regard to the acute/hospital funding, this development funding was primarily used to recruit additional personnel resources across a range of sites to implement this new service within the hospital sector. Resources supported by this investment included additional consultant obstetricians and gynaecologists, midwives and nurses, ultra-sonographers, theatre staff, bereavement specialists, administrators, medical social workers and pharmacists.

It is important to note that whilst these resources were funded and established utilising funding provided for implementation of termination of pregnancy services, the resources have been embedded within existing gynaecology and maternity services such that termination of pregnancy is just one of the areas of responsibilities that they hold with regard to women's health service provision on the ground. This funding has also enabled some hospital sites to undertake small scale improvements to the physical environment including privacy refurbishments and equipping projects so as to ensure that the service could be provided safely and in a manner cognisance of the woman's requirement for privacy and dignity. The funding allocated in 2019 and 2020 has remained within the base budgets of the respective hospitals and continues to fund the relevant salaries etc.

In relation to the funding allocated to Community/Primary Care Services for implementation of the termination of pregnancy service, this also remains in the base budget. The supports and services provided for within this funding package include:

#### Fees paid to GPs and community termination of pregnancy providers

These fees are set out in Schedule 2 of the Termination of Pregnancy Scheme Contract. The contract is available to view at the following link. <https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/gmscontracts/termination-of-pregnancy-draftcontract/termination-of-pregnancy-service-contract-nov-2019.pdf>

#### Termination of Pregnancy Medicinal Products

The HSE provides GPs with medicinal products and information materials for use in the provision of termination of pregnancy services. A medical abortion involves taking two medications to end the pregnancy i.e. mifepristone and misoprostal.

#### Training Courses

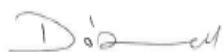
The HSE facilitates GP termination of pregnancy provider training by funding approved training courses through the Irish College of General Practitioners (ICGP).

#### HSE My Options (Services and Information Campaign)

HSE My Options is a Freephone helpline and web chat service that provides information and support to anyone experiencing an unplanned or crisis pregnancy. The My Options service provides the contact details of general practitioners (GPs) who provide termination of pregnancy services; as well as providing listening support. The service also signposts to state funded crisis pregnancy counselling for those who wish to access this service. My Options is staffed by professionally trained counsellors that are experienced in providing support to women who are experiencing an unplanned pregnancy. If a woman chooses to have a counselling session, it can be booked through My Options, and take place over the phone or face-to-face. Counselling sessions are non-directive and non-judgemental and information about all options, including continuing pregnancy supports and termination of pregnancy. A telephone interpreter service is also available for information and support.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,



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