



Clár Sláinte Náisiúnta do Mhná & do Naíonáin
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23/09/2024

Deputy Nolan
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 35274/24: To ask the Minister for Health the number of conflict-of-interest declarations that were made relevant to the development of the National Clinical Guideline programme of work agreed between the national women and infants health programme; the outcome of such declarations; the number of such declarations that included indirect, financial and non-financial professional and personal interests; 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 Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

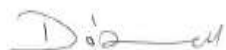
Guideline developers and reviewers bring a range of experiences and perspectives to the work of the National Guideline Programme. It is likely that both Guideline developers and stakeholders/reviewers will have a variety of interests, arising from different contexts and activities done in a professional or personal capacity. These can include employment and other sources of income, speaking engagements, publications and research, and membership of professional or voluntary organisations. The involvement of individuals with relevant content expertise is essential for enhancing the value of Guideline recommendations, but these individuals may also have interests that can lead to conflicts of interest, as may peer reviewers, patient representatives and researchers.

All Guideline developers are asked to complete a conflict of interest declaration form. These can be financial or non-financial personal or professional interests. In addition, guideline developers are asked to declare indirect interests i.e. any interests of people and organisations with whom they have a close association with. Responses to declared interests are managed by the Guideline programme team, in accordance with Guidelines International Network (GIN) principles for Conflicts of Interest in Guidelines.

Conflicts of interest are contained in the published Guidelines which are publicly available on the [HSE](#) and [RCPI](#) websites. Where there has been no conflicts of interest specifically declared, there is no additional information published.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,



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