



Clár Sláinte Náisiúnta do Mhná & do Naíonáin
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte, Aonad 7A, Áras
Dargan, An Ceantar Theas, Baile Átha Cliath 8
T: 076 695 9991

National Women and Infants Health Programme
Health Service Executive, Unit 7A, The Dargan Building,
Heuston South Quarter, Dublin 8
T: 076 695 9991

13th October 2021

Deputy Canney,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ Ref 46232/21: To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the fact that doctors are receiving training in the way in which to perform dilation and evacuation abortions as mentioned in UCD research published in April 2021 in relation to the experiences of abortion providers since the law has changed; if dilation and evacuation abortions are currently taking place in Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Canney,

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.

Specialist training in obstetrics & gynaecology in Ireland and certification of same is provided by the Institute of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, as the postgraduate training body recognised by the Irish Medical Council for this purpose and not by the HSE itself. A comprehensive online training package regarding the provision of termination of pregnancy services has been developed by the Institute and is made available to all trainees and members. Training on abortion care has been included in the curriculum for all basic and specialty trainees in obstetrics and gynaecology.

The management of terminations by means of dilation and evacuation is provided in the acute sector in Ireland, however this procedure is provided primarily in exceptional circumstances. Primarily termination of pregnancy is carried out by administration of medication rather than by surgical means.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary-Jo Biggs'.

Mary-Jo Biggs, General Manager, National Women and Infants Health Programme