

Note for the Minister's Information

First Report from the Oversight Group for the Implementation of Recommendations in the HIQA Investigation Report on Portlaoise Hospital

1. The HIQA Investigation Report on Portlaoise Hospital called for the establishment of an oversight group to oversee the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Report. The Minister approved the establishment of an Oversight Group whose membership is shown at *Appendix A*. The terms of reference for the Group are shown at *Appendix B*.
2. To date the Oversight Group has met three times. The main focus of its work to date has been to agree the scope of its work and how the progress being achieved can be recorded and reported to the Minister. The Group considered the recommendations made in the following reports to ascertain if any outstanding recommendations needed to be included within the scope of the Oversight Group:
 - Report by the CMO on Perinatal Deaths in Portlaoise Hospital
 - HSE Diagnostic Report on Portlaoise Hospital
 - A Clinical review by Dr Peter Boylan of 28 Maternity Case Notes

The Oversight Group also took into account the Minister's letter to the Director General of the HSE dated 15th May, 2015 which sought assurances on the provision of counselling and immediate supports to the patients and families affected.

3. The Oversight Group is close to finalising the full project plan which will list the individual projects, actions, milestones and timelines required to monitor implementation of the recommendations. The Department is working through the final details with the HSE with a view to signing off on the full project plan within the next week.
4. It is intended that a report on the progress of implementation of the recommendations will be provided to the Minister on a monthly basis. The Oversight Group will require its first report against the project plan for the month of July. It is expected that the July report will be reviewed by the Oversight Group in mid-August and then forwarded to the Minister for his information.

Dr Tony Holohan
Chief Medical Officer and Chairperson of the Oversight Group
16th July, 2015

**Oversight Group for the Implementation of Recommendations in the HIQA
Investigation Report on Portlaoise Hospital**

Membership of the Group

- Dr Tony Holohan, Chief Medical Officer, Department of Health
- Tracey Conroy, Assistant Secretary, Acute Hospitals Division, Department of Health
- Dr Siobhan O'Halloran, Chief Nursing Officer, Department of Health
- Dr Eibhlin Connolly, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Patient Safety Unit, Department of Health
- Joan Regan, Principal Officer, Acute Hospitals Division, Department of Health
- Sheila O'Connor, Patient Focus (alternative Cathriona Molloy)

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Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference of the Oversight Group are as follows:

- To set out what progress is expected to be achieved on each of the recommendations within a given timeline.
- To oversee, report on and highlight the extent of progress being made on the implementation of the HIQA recommendations
- To provide an update on progress of implementation to the Minister on a monthly basis.
- To publish an update on progress of implementation on a quarterly basis.
- To provide an overall assessment to the Minister in December 2015 of the progress being achieved on implementation and to recommend to the Minister what further action might be necessary to ensure full implementation of the recommendations in 2016.
- To conclude its work in June 2016 by providing a final report to the Minister on overall implementation and to recommend what further actions, if any, that are required to be taken. This final report will be published.