



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

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Deputy Roisin Shortall,  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Dublin 2

19<sup>th</sup> July 2017

**PQ Number: 34696/17**

**To ask the Minister for Health his strategy to address a matter (details supplied) in respect of awareness campaigns on the dangers of drinking alcohol during pregnancy; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Shortall,

The HSE launched [www.askaboutalcohol.ie](http://www.askaboutalcohol.ie) in March of this year. This website provides a comprehensive source of health information on alcohol risk at every stage of life. In addition to the website a promotional campaign is ongoing to raise awareness of this new resource; new content is added to the site on a regular basis and a range of printed and online tools and materials are available to the public.

The 'Alcohol and Pregnancy' section of the website includes information on foetal alcohol spectrum disorder and FAS, and evidence linking alcohol FASD and FAS. Later this year an information leaflet on alcohol and pregnancy, including information on FASD will be made available nationally via a variety of clinical and community networks.

Information on a low risk approach to alcohol and pregnancy will be included in other relevant health information campaigns and education resources targeting key audiences.

The HSE is working to support women who are pregnant or are likely to become pregnant by providing the best health advice on alcohol risk during pregnancy, and to provide a supportive environment for a healthy pregnancy.

This work will be enhanced by measures contained in the Public Health (Alcohol) Bill 2015 to create a low risk approach to alcohol use across society and which specifically mandate the inclusion of a warning that is intended to inform the public of the danger of alcohol consumption when pregnant, on labels of alcohol containers.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Helen Deely", is written over a horizontal line.

Helen Deely,  
Health Promotion & Improvement