

**From:** S. 40 (2)  
**Sent:** Tue May 17 08:26:48 2016  
**To:** DOJ Minister's Office  
**Subject:** TRIM: Working Group on fatal foetal abnormality  
**Importance:** Normal

Dear Minister Ford

On the 25th of March, the Department of Health put out a press release entitled " Health Minister welcomes Executive Agreement on Termination of Pregnancy Guidance and provides update on FFA working group. " In this press release, it was stated that " progress had been made on the creation of a working group to examine the issue of fatal foetal abnormality " and that agreement had been struck between the Departments of Health and Justice " to proceed with creating an inter-departmental working group composed of officials from both of our Departments. "

Since this press release was published, I have been unable to find any further details about this working group in the public domain. I have a number of questions which I would like to raise with regard to it.

1. Have the terms of reference of the working group been finalised? And if so, can I be provided with a copy of them?
2. Could you list who the members of the working group are and their respective job titles.
3. The email specifies that the working group will be made up of " officials " from the Departments of Health and Justice. Could you specify whether any medical professionals or members of representative bodies of the medical profession will be part of the group?
4. Could you confirm whether any meetings of the group have taken place up to now? And if so, could minutes of those meetings be provided?
5. What is the timeline for the completion of study in to the question of fatal foetal abnormality?
6. What input, if any, will NGO's, representative bodies, churches and individuals impacted have with regard to the working group?

It would be most helpful if I could arrange to meet with officials who are involved in this process to understand what the purpose of this group is. Could I also ask for confirmation that this email has been received.

Finally, I should simply thank you to you for all the work you have put in as Justice Minister over the past six years. I appreciate that it has often been a thankless task for you and I wish you the very best as you step down from the role.

Yours

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