

A Personal Journey and Audit

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Background

In my last working year in in Holles Street, I (PK) did 70 fetal and Perinatal autopsies which included 6 cases for other Maternity Hospitals

Since the early eighties we (JG and PK) had continued the practice of doing, in our tertiary centers, on request, autopsy cases for Regional Maternity Hospitals

On retiring in 2009 at the request of the manager and clinical staff of the Dublin Midland Hospitals Group, I began an autopsy service, (in Tullamore Hospital) for Portlaoise and Mullingar Maternity Hospitals and Paediatric Units and for local Coroners.

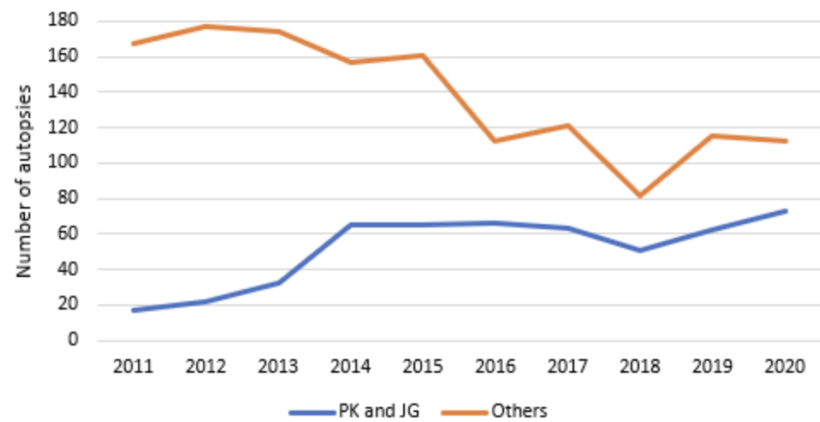
This service expanded during the next four years to include Galway, Waterford, Cavan, Tralee, Clonmel, Portlinculla, Drogheda, Limerick, The Coombe and Navan

In January 2013, I asked my retired colleague (JG) to join me and there followed a large increase in requests from the four Provinces

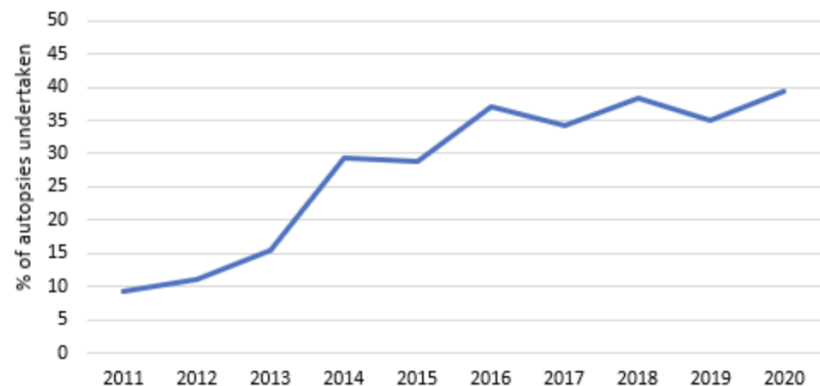
Provision of service accelerates demand

Findings and Discussion

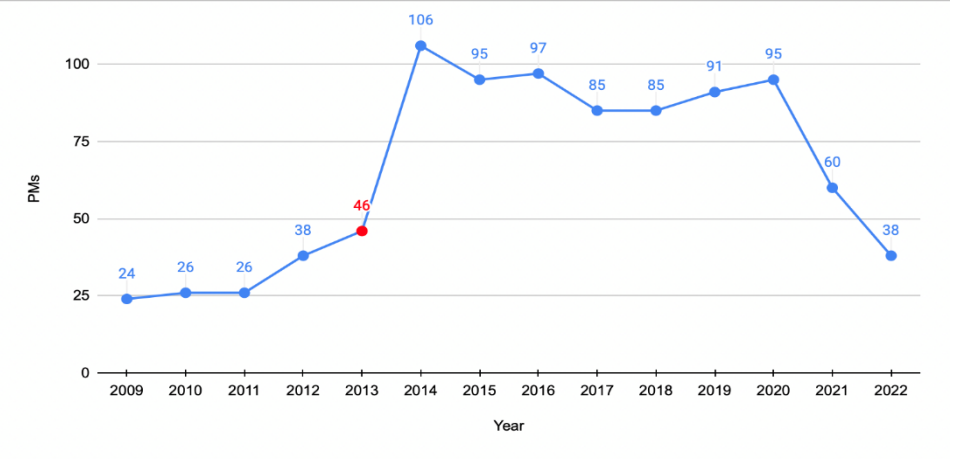
Perinatal death autopsies by pathologist teams



Percentage of perinatal death autopsies by pathologist team PK and JG



Total paediatric autopsies 2009 - 2022



The UK has for many years well supported and coordinated Supra-Regional Perinatal Pathology services, although there have been some staffing problems recently it remains a good model of care. The whole of the West Midlands has more small Maternity Units than we have in Ireland. The service is provided from the Womens Hospital in Birmingham

The pilot service provided to the North East via the Rotunda Hospital is a service par-excellence and recognizes that a singlehanded pathologist isn't enough, and that perinatal pathology requires extra secretarial service and places a heavy demand on the histology laboratory. A coordinator acting between Maternity and the Pathology service is very important in streamlining communication.

We would advocate for an established cooperative arrangement in the 6 groups that would support cross cover and a rota system to provide weekend and public holiday service for the benefit of grieving parents