



22nd December 2020

Deputy Thomas Pringle
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 41108/20 – To ask the Minister for Health the counties which still do not have access to abortion care via their general practitioners; the counties with no general practitioners providing early medical abortions in tabular form; the steps his Department is taking alongside the HSE to address these gaps in services; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

-Thomas Pringle

Dear Deputy Pringle,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 41108/20), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

As of December 2020, some 395 GPs have signed the contract to provide a termination of pregnancy service. The HSE is satisfied that there is a good geographic spread of GPs signed up to the contract, enough to meet the needs of people who may need to access the service.

The only county without a General Practitioner signed up to provide the service is Sligo. Sligo University Hospital (SUH) provides care to women under sections 9, 10 and 11 of the Act and provides care to women with complications following a termination. SUH is planning to introduce termination of pregnancy under section 12 of the Act in 2021 and this in turn will support the engagement of primary care providers in the county.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

TJ Dunford

Interim Head of Primary Care Operations
Community Operations