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Deputy Holly Cairns  
Dail Eireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

30<sup>th</sup> November 2020

**PQ ref: 37098/20**

**Question: To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the ERSI HSE report Talking about Sex and Sexual Behaviour of Young People in Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Cairns,

Thank you for your question to the Minister for Health, which was forwarded to my office to respond to you directly.

The HSE Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy Programme (SHCPP), HSE Health and Wellbeing has overall responsibility for the implementation of the National Sexual Health Strategy 2015 – 2020 and is supported in this by the Department of Health <https://www.sexualwellbeing.ie/about/corporate-publications/national-sexual-health-strategy/national-sexual-health-strategy.pdf>. One of the key goals of the strategy is to generate robust and high quality sexual health information to underpin policy, practice, service planning and strategic monitoring.

As an element of its response to this sexual health intelligence remit, the SHCPP provided funding for, and oversight of, the research report '*Talking about Sex and Sexual Behaviour of Young People in Ireland*', as a part of an ESRI/HSE research programme on Health and Wellbeing in Childhood and Adolescence. The objective of the research programme is to undertake and disseminate research on issues of policy relevance to children and young people, using data from the National Longitudinal Study of Children, Growing up in Ireland (GUI).

On November 10<sup>th</sup>, Minister Frank Feighan, Minister for Public Health and Wellbeing and the National Drugs Strategy, Department of Health, launched the research report along with a range of resources to support parents in this area. Please find the press release here: <https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/news/media/pressrel/talking-about-sex-and-sexual-behaviour-of-young-people-in-ireland.html>

The SHCPP has developed a dissemination plan for this study and will continue to disseminate the findings and relevant resources to key audiences.

Yours Sincerely

*Maeve O'Brien*

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**Maeve O'Brien**

Interim Programme Lead

Sexual Health & Crisis Pregnancy Programme