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Sexual Health & Crisis Pregnancy Programme, 4th Floor, 89 – 94 Capel Street, Dublin 1.

Deputy Holly Cairns Dail Eireann Leinster House Kildare Street Dublin 2

21st January 2021

PQ ref: 2674/21

Question: To ask the Minister for Health his views on making permanent the pilot service offering free at home test kits for STI screening to Dublin, Cork, and Kerry; and if the service will be extended to the entire country; 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 & Crisis Pregnancy Programme (SHCPP) is piloting a home STI testing service to assess the feasibility, acceptability and cost-effectiveness of an online STI service that is integrated with public STI clinics in Ireland.

The pilot sites of Dublin, Cork and Kerry were selected to ensure a mix of urban and rural settings so that data collected during the pilot could inform scalability on a national level.

The service delivery period commenced in January 2021 and is due to be completed in May 2021.

Following the service delivery period, a formal evaluation of the pilot project will be undertaken.

The pilot project and the evaluation results will provide valuable information to inform decision-making in relation to future service provision.

Yours Sincerely

Maeve O'Brien

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Interim Programme Lead Sexual Health & Crisis Pregnancy Programme