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29th January 2021

Deputy Cullinane
Dáil Éireann,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 4275/21 To ask the Minister for Health the number of new HIV diagnoses in each of the years 2010 to 2020, by gender in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Cullinane

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question which has been referred by the Minister for Health to the Health Service Executive for direct response.

HIV diagnoses in Ireland by gender, 2010-2020

Year	Female	Male	Unknown	Total
2010	89	241		330
2011	87	239		326
2012	96	243		339
2013	84	255		339
2014	100	277		377
2015	113	369		482
2016	112	390		502
2017	115	374		489
2018	106	415	1	522
2019	137	398		535
2020	94	357	1	452

Data provided are based on new diagnoses in Ireland and include people who were previously diagnosed HIV positive abroad but are being diagnosed for the first time in Ireland

Explanatory note:

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted on the notifications of HIV and STIs in 2020 for a number of reasons.

Reduced social interaction due to national COVID-19 response measures, such as domestic travel restrictions, restricted social gatherings, the closure of social venues, etc. may have led to reduced sexual activity and a reduction in the number of those requiring STI testing.

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted on the acute hospital system resulting in a reduction of STI testing availability within public STI services. In the first wave of COVID-19 between March and May 2020, most STI services were

closed due to staff redeployment, though many services continued to operate a limited service for emergencies and established virtual clinics to ensure continuation of treatment, such as PrEP.

Most services reopened in June/July and remained open during the second wave of COVID-19. STI services have continued to face service restrictions, predominantly due to social distancing requirements as waiting room space is limited. Priority is given to those with symptoms/requiring testing and treatment.

The 3rd wave of COVID-19 is increasingly impacting on the acute hospital system and many public STI services have started to move to emergency/symptomatic appointments only, providing virtual clinics where possible.

If you require any further information or clarification please do contact us.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Cuddihy".

**Dr John Cuddihy,
Interim Director of HPSC,
25-27, Middle Gardiner St.,
Dublin 1.**

MRN: 016227