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Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2
30th March 2021

PQ ref: 15029/21

Question: To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons currently registered as being eligible for free PrEP treatment; the way the HSE maintains contact with such persons during the period of the gay men's health service being closed; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Deputy Ó Snodaigh,

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

The national PrEP programme is delivered through approved services that meet the National Standards for PrEP Service Delivery. There are currently eleven public and nine private approved PrEP service providers in Ireland. For more information please refer to:

www.sexualwellbeing.ie/preproviders
www.sexualwellbeing.ie/prep

Approved prescribers must register eligible individuals on the HSE Primary Care Reimbursement Service (PCRS) application system, so that they are approved for PrEP. There are currently 2,853 eligible individuals registered on the PCRS PrEP system.

All PrEP services have continued to communicate with their PrEP service users during the Covid-19 pandemic, through virtual consultations, postal prescriptions or appointments for testing and treatment as required. This includes the Gay Men's Health Service (GMHS) who continued to support existing PrEP users virtually for part of 2020, and then with additional support from the GUIDE clinic in St James's Hospital from October to December 2020. Since January 2021, the GMHS has been open for existing PrEP service users.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maeve O'Brien".

Maeve O'Brien,
Interim Programme Lead,
Sexual Health & Crisis Pregnancy Programme
HSE Health and Wellbeing