



Clár Sláinte Náisiúnta do Mhná & do Naíonáin
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte, Aonad 7A, Áras
Dargan, An Ceantar Theas, Baile Átha Cliath 8
T: 076 695 9991

National Women and Infants Health Programme
Health Service Executive, Unit 7A, The Dargan Building,
Heuston South Quarter, Dublin 8
T: 076 695 9991

12th May 2021

Deputy Cairns
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ Ref 23346/21 To ask the Minister for Health the steps he is taking to provide accessible information on informed decisions related to unplanned pregnancy including information accessible to persons with intellectual disabilities, persons that are deaf, hard of hearing or non-verbal, persons that are blind or vision impaired and Irish speakers and non-native English speakers.

Dear Deputy Cairns

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The HSE MyOptions website is the first point of access for those with an unplanned pregnancy, the website also includes information on all HSE funded counselling services.

<https://www2.hse.ie/services/unplanned-pregnancy-support-services/find-a-face-to-face-unplanned-pregnancy-counselling-service.html>

MyOptions also provides information on the website about the Irish Remote Interpreting Service (IRIS). This service can support Irish Sign Language users with their call to My Options by providing a live video-link to an Irish Sign Language interpreter. Irish Sign Language users can book an appointment with IRIS online (<https://iris2.gettimely.com>).

This service is free of charge for those who need it.

All services are currently providing full counselling services remotely to clients either via telephone or via video consultations.

For service users who are non-native speakers MyOptions can arrange translation services in over 240 languages by contacting them on 1800 828010, this service is also provided free of charge.

All of the HSE funded pregnancy counselling services can access translation services as required.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,



Mary-Jo Biggs, General Manager, National Women and Infants Health Programme