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Deputy Mattie McGrath
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

16th February 2022

PQ ref: 5908/22

Question: To ask the Minister for Health the procedures that are followed to ensure a diversity of viewpoints are represented when it comes to decision making and policy formation in the area of unplanned pregnancy; the reason the MyOptions hotline is ill-equipped to meet the needs of women experiencing an unplanned pregnancy who wish to keep their baby; the steps he plans to take to rectify the situation; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Deputy McGrath,

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

My Options offers non-directive counselling and information for people experiencing an unplanned pregnancy. Information is available about all options, including continued pregnancy supports and abortion services. The ethos of the service is client centred and counsellors take their lead from the person contacting them for information and support.

Those experiencing an unplanned pregnancy who contact MyOptions are provided with a service staffed by experienced accredited counsellors. All counselling is provided in a non-judgemental, non-directive manner, which allows the individual experiencing the pregnancy (and their partner) the time and space to make the best decision for them. The individual is supported by the counsellor in whatever decision is made and counselling can continue throughout a pregnancy.

Yours Sincerely

Maeve O'Brien

Interim Programme Lead
Sexual Health & Crisis Pregnancy Programme