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Deputy Peadar Toibin  
Dail Eireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

7<sup>th</sup> February 2022

**PQ ref: 3266/22**

**Question: To ask the Minister for Health the steps that are being taken by his Department to ensure that staff employed at MyOptions are trained in providing practical information to women on positive alternatives to abortion to ensure the counsellors are fulfilling the promise of providing informed consent in view of a recent research investigation carried out by a group (details supplied).**

Dear Deputy Toibin

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

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**Maeve O'Brien**  
Interim Programme Lead  
Sexual Health & Crisis Pregnancy Programme