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27th January 2022

Deputy Toibin.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ3397/22: To ask the Minister for Health his views on whether not offering contact details for abortion services is a sign that a pregnancy service is disingenuous; and his further views on whether the HSE should be campaigning against pregnancy services that do not offer telephone numbers for abortion services.

Details supplied: It was reported in a media outlet today that a HSE spokesperson has said that not providing advice and supports and information on abortion services was a sign of a “disingenuous” pregnancy service.

Dear Deputy Toibin,

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 issue which you are referring to relates to the existence of “unregulated crisis pregnancy services”, over which the HSE has issued a warning to the public. As set out in the media report you allude to, a spokesperson for the HSE confirmed that the HSE is “aware and monitoring the situation in relation to disingenuous agencies operating in Ireland”. As set out in the media report, people experiencing an unplanned pregnancy or indeed of post-abortion support, can find a list of regulated services via the HSE’s My Options website.

I trust this provides the clarification sought, in terms of the quote being understood and interpreted in the context that it was provided i.e. the HSE ensuring and supporting people to access regulated and safe crisis pregnancy services when they experience an unplanned pregnancy.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary-Jo Biggs'.

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