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Sexual Health & Crisis Pregnancy Programme,
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Deputy Carol Nolan
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

7th February 2022

PQ ref: 3849/22

Question: To ask the Minister for Health his views on whether it is appropriate and consistent with the proclaimed neutrality of the MyOptions service for a counsellor to advise a woman uncertain of whether they want an abortion to make the appointment in view of the recent research into the HSE MyOptions phone-line presented by a group (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Deputy Nolan,

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

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

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