



**Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta
Géaroibríochtaí**

Aonad 4A, Áras Dargan, An Ceantar Theas,
An Bóthar Míleata, Cill Mhaighneann, Baile
Átha Cliath 8, D08 NN9V

**Office of the National Director
Acute Operations**

Unit 4a, the Dargan Building,
Heuston South Quarter, Military
Road, Kilmainham, Dublin 8, D08
NN9V

www.hse.ie
[@hselive](https://twitter.com/hselive)

t 01 7959972

acutehospitals@hse.ie

25th July 2022

Deputy Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire

Dáil Éireann

Leinster House

Dublin 2.

PQ 37871/22 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons waiting for an appointment to access a sexual health clinic per hospital in tabular form.

Dear Deputy Ó Laoghaire,

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 am advised by the **Interim Programme Lead**, Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy Programme, that generally STI appointments are based on level of urgency, or the booking system within individual services. STI services operate a triage system, with urgent cases being seen on the same day, or within a specified number of days, depending on the urgency.

I am advised that most STI services do not have waiting lists, though length of waiting time for a non-urgent appointment can be between 0 and a number of weeks, depending on the service or circumstances. Some services operate an electronic booking systems, so appointment slots can be filled as they are made available.

I understand that the HSE has recently established an online STI testing service that allows individuals without symptoms to order an STI test to their home. This service provides immediate access to STI testing and reduces the level of non-urgent cases seeking appointments in STI clinics. Tests are available 7 days per week and results are communicated back to the service user within 72 hours of their samples being returned to the lab.

I am advised that this online STI testing service is being rolled out nationally. The service is available in 22 of the 26 counties, with work on-going to integrate the 4 remaining counties. At present, between 6,000 and 7,000 STI tests are being ordered through the service each month.

I trust this is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Carol Ivory

General Manager, Acute Operations