



**Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta
Géaroibríochtaí**

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1st April 2022

Deputy Aodhán Ó'Riordáin
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ 14633/22 : To ask the Minister for Health the waiting times nationally for those seeking a prescription for pre-exposure prophylaxis through the HSE for HIV prevention; the waiting time between making an appointment and seeing a doctor; if he is satisfied with the numbers; and if he will make a statement on the matter

Dear Deputy Ó'Riordáin,

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 of the Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy Programme that since the national PrEP programme began in November 2019, 5368 individuals have been enrolled in the PrEP programme. 2686 individuals were enrolled in the PrEP programme in 2021 and 848 individuals have been enrolled in the PrEP programme so far in 2022.

I understand that there are currently 14 public and 9 private approved PrEP service providers in Ireland. Within the public clinics, nearly 4,000 individuals are currently engaged in PrEP care.

Individuals established on PrEP have their appointments scheduled to meet their needs with no significant delays in getting prescriptions. During the pandemic, at times there have been necessary changes to appointment times as services faced challenges in running clinics and/or where individuals were unable to attend owing to having COVID or being a close contact.

I am advised that the waiting time for those seeking to engage with the PrEP programme for the first time varies around the country. Some services are currently unable to see new PrEP patients within existing resources, while other services are seeing between 1 and 10 new patients per week. Waiting times of up to two weeks and six weeks have been reported for individuals seeking to get an appointment. Other services offer appointments to the public via an electronic self-booking portal (SwiftQ) and report that appointments are booked rapidly when they become available.

The HSE Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy Programme is actively engaged with the public services to assist in identifying ways to meet growing demand for PrEP.

Yours sincerely,

Carol Ivory

General Manager, Acute Operations