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Deputy Cian O'Callaghan
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

21st September 2022

PQ ref: 42222/22

To ask the Minister for Health the average waiting times for HIV PrEP appointments in Dublin; the number of persons who been unable to get appointments at PrEP clinics; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Deputy O'Callaghan,

Thank you for your question to the Minister for Health, which was forwarded to my office to respond to you directly.

The provision of HSE funded, free PrEP to those at substantial risk of acquiring HIV sexually was first introduced in November 2019. Since then, 7,008 individuals have been approved for PrEP, including 848 and 792 individuals in Q1 and Q2 2022 respectively.

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; while other services are seeing between 1 and 10 new patients per week. Waiting times of between two weeks and six weeks have been reported for individuals seeking to get an appointment. Some services offer appointments to the public via an electronic self-booking portal (SwiftQ) and report that when they become available, these appointments are booked rapidly.

The HSE Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy Programme (SHCPP) is actively working with existing public PrEP clinics to support them to increase capacity; and is also working to increase the number of PrEP providers. Of note, responding to meet the needs of individuals affected by and at risk of Monkeypox infection presents an additional challenge to SHCPP and clinical services, including PrEP services, at this time.

Yours Sincerely

Maeve O'Brien

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Interim Programme Lead

Sexual Health & Crisis Pregnancy Programme, HSE Health and Wellbeing