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Deputy Roisin Shortall  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

22<sup>nd</sup> September 2022

**PQ ref: 44066/22**

**To ask the Minister for Health if any HSE sexual health clinics have had to close or temporarily suspend their services since January 2022; if so, if he will list the clinics; the reason for the closure or temporary suspension of services; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Deputy Shortall,

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

**Response from South East Community Healthcare (SECH), Primary Care, CHO 5:**

The public STI clinic in Waterford has been temporarily closed since May 4<sup>th</sup> 2022 until September 5<sup>th</sup> 2022 due to Medical Manpower issues. The service has re-opened on a phased basis while a training programme is completed. The public STI clinics in Carlow and Clonmel are satellite clinics to Waterford. They have been closed since Covid 19 with Nursing staff re-deployed. The plan is to re-instate these clinics as part of the overall strategic aims for the service which is to have a Consultant lead service to provide services for the full south east. The re-deployed staff are now back in the STI services.

**Response from SHCPP:** We are aware that the public STI clinics in Louth County Hospital and our Lady of Lourdes Hospital Drogheda were temporarily suspended on 15 September 2022.

Yours Sincerely

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**Maeve O'Brien** Interim Programme Lead Sexual Health & Crisis Pregnancy Programme,  
HSE Health and Wellbeing