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Deputy Roisin Shortall
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

22 September 2022

PQ ref: 44068/22

To ask the Minister for Health the steps that he is taking to address the lack of availability of pre-exposure prophylaxis appointments in public PrEP services; the reasons for these capacity issues; 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.

The provision of HSE funded, free PrEP to those at substantial risk of sexual acquiring HIV was first introduced in November 2019. Since then, 7008 individuals have been approved for PrEP, including 848 and 792 individuals in Q1 and Q2 2022 respectively.

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

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

Maeve O'Brien

Interim Programme Lead

Sexual Health & Crisis Pregnancy Programme, HSE Health and Wellbeing