



Oifig an Stiúrthóra Cúnta Náisiúnta  
Clár Cúraim Pobail Feabhsaithe &  
Conarthaí Príomhchúraim  
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte

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Deputy John Lahart,  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Dublin 2.

13<sup>th</sup> April 2023

**PQ 11354/23 -To ask the Minister for Health the measures being taken to make the free contraception scheme accessible for marginalised communities including disabled women, migrant women, Traveller women and Roma women in terms of telemedicine, eligibility without a PPSN and inclusion of pharmacist-prescribing as part of the roll out. -John Lahart.**

Dear Deputy Lahart,

The HSE launched the Contraception Service Scheme in September 2022 to provide oral, long-acting and emergency contraception for women and people aged 17-25. In January 2023 the scheme was further extended to 26 year olds. The Scheme is accessible to all women or people between the ages of 17 to 26 and those living in Ireland by making an appointment with a local doctor providing the scheme. If an eligible person is unable to attend a doctor for free contraception they can also access the scheme through family planning clinics, women's health clinics and student health clinics.

In order to access the free scheme, eligible persons need to give their PPS number, name, date of birth and address at their appointment and at the pharmacy when filling their prescription. Eligible patients who do not have a PPSN can apply for same via the Department of Social Protection. Further information is available in relation to obtaining a PPSN at <https://www.gov.ie/en/service/12e6de-get-a-personal-public-service-pps-number/#>. To note accessing medical services is considered evidence of why an individual would need a PPSN number if they did not have one in the first instance.

Finally, telemedicine does not form part of the model of service for the Contraception Scheme as this is an in person service.

I trust this is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

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Geraldine Crowley,  
Assistant National Director,  
Enhanced Community Care Programme &  
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