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Deputy Marc O Cathasaigh TD
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin

PQ 27673/24

To ask the Minister for Health if he is aware that the sexual health clinic in Waterford is effectively non-operational and local health services are unable to offer PrEP services, for which people have to travel to Cork or Dublin; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy O Cathasaigh,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

I have reviewed the matter and the following is the current position.

The Regional Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) Service in the South East (SE) is based primarily in a designated clinic on the University Hospital Waterford (UHW) campus with outreach clinics in Carlow and Enniscorthy. STI Services are currently provided under the remit of Primary Care Services, South East Community Healthcare (SECH).

The STI clinics within the South East continues to provide services for existing service users who require vaccination, testing, follow up reviews and treatments. Unfortunately there is a temporary disruption to service provision for new referrals to the STI service, due to a deficit within the required clinical skill set. However, new referrals are directed to other STI services which are based in Dublin, Cork and Portlaoise.

The HSE is actively seeking resolution and anticipates the recommencement of services of new referrals to the STI service as a matter of priority. Primary Care, South East Community Healthcare remains committed to providing a safe, high quality STI Service, including the provision of PrEP, to the population of the South East.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.