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Friday 17th May 2024

Deputy Patrick Costello
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Dear Deputy Costello,

Re Ref: PQ 21855/24

To ask the Minister for Health for the number of available average weekly slots for the Gay Men's Health Service; and the estimated weekly demand.

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The Gay Men's Health Service (GMHS) runs a number of different clinics each week. The available weekly slots and the weekly demand is set out below:

Weekly Clinic:	Actual number of weekly appointments available:
Asymptomatic Screening	75
Treatment and Symptomatic Appointments	56
Vaccination Appointments	22
PrEP Appointments	65
Total Weekly Appointments	218

All appointments are fully booked each week.

New asymptomatic appointments become available two weeks in advance and when patients cancel an appointment, these appointments become available to book.

Patients with positive STI results are generally seen for treatment within one week.

Vaccination appointments are open eight weeks in advance.

The current appointment booking system does not allow the service to capture demand. This is an area that is currently under review.

In addition to these core clinics, GMHS provide additional consultations with patients as required. The GMHS CNS, Health Advisor is also available to see patients.



I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Niamh McAlinden', written over a horizontal line.

Niamh McAlinden
Head of Service, Primary Care