



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

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Deputy McGreehan,
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

30th July 2025

PQ: 31845/25 to ask the Minister for Health the number of appointments available per year under the free contraception scheme.

PQ: 31846/25 to ask the Minister for Health whether an additional consultation is provided free of charge when a person needs to review her prescription under the free contraception scheme.

Dear Deputy McGreehan,

I refer to your parliamentary questions, which were passed to the HSE for response.

The Free Contraception Scheme was introduced in September 2022, initially for those aged 17 to 25, and was subsequently expanded in June 2024 to women aged 35 inclusive. The scheme covers the cost of consultations with GPs, family planning, student health and primary care centers, and prescriptions for the wide range of contraceptive options available on the HSE reimbursement list.

Eligible persons can access the scheme 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 other providers such as the family planning clinics, women's health clinics and student health clinics.

The definition of a consultation within this scheme is outlined in the Free Primary Care Based Contraception Service Contract: *"A consultation under the Free Contraception Scheme means the initial consultation and a follow up consultation in relation to a 12-month period, and, where deemed clinically necessary by a Registered Medical Practitioner any additional follow up consultations as appropriate in that period"*. A copy of the Contract can be viewed at the following link: <https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/gmscontracts/free-contraception-service-contract/>

Since the Scheme started in September 2022 and up to March 2025 there have been some 509,693 consultations provided to eligible patients. The below table sets out the number of consultations carried out per year since Sept 2022.



Year	Total Number of Consultations
Sept to Dec 2022	32,579
Jan to Dec 2023	157,313
Jan to Dec 2024	217,608
Jan to March 2025	102,193
Grand Total	509,693

Data Source PCRS

Further information in relation to the scheme can also be found under the HSE Sexual Wellbeing page as below. <https://www.sexualwellbeing.ie/sexual-health/contraception/free-contraception/>

I trust this is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

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