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27/05/2025

Deputy Bacik  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ 24466/25: To ask the Minister for Health the number of healthcare providers who provide abortion services in each county, both in raw figures and as a percentage of total healthcare provision cover, in tabular form; her views on the need to ensure access to reproductive healthcare; and if she will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Bacik,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been asked to respond directly to your Parliamentary Questions submitted to the Minister for Health. I have reviewed the matter, and the following outlines the current position on the issues you raised.

As of 27th May 2025, there were 457 active TOP contracts. Of these, 11 were Entity Contractors (e.g., Family Planning Clinics, Women's Health Clinics, Student Health Clinics). The HSE is satisfied with the geographic spread of participating GPs, which is considered sufficient to meet service demand. Currently, 306 providers are listed through the MyOptions helpline/website.

All 19 maternity units now offer elective abortion care for women under 12 weeks' gestation, as well as care for those with complications following a termination and in cases where there is a risk to the life or health of the mother. Women carrying babies affected by life-limiting conditions are referred to tertiary maternity services for appropriate care. Hospital contact details are available here:  
<https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/abortion/how-to-get/in-hospital/>

The HSE remains committed to ensuring access to high-quality, safe abortion care across both acute and community settings. The TOP service is acknowledged as a routine and integrated component of reproductive healthcare provision.

The Termination of Pregnancy Service is one that generates much controversy and on which many people hold strong opinions. Whilst the vast majority of protests are peaceful there always exists the potential for violence and associated safety concerns. I am satisfied that arising from previous instances of protest at GP Practices there is the potential of a continuing threat of abusive behaviour on the part of activists. I have decided to invoke Section 32 (1) (b) of the FOI Act 2014 to deny access to the records relevant to your request in the context that to release the records in my view may undermine the potential for the safety of GPs or GP Practice staff if the information requested was to be released which could potentially lead to the identification of specific GP's providing the Termination of Pregnancy Service. I am making this decision in the context of the extreme views which are held by some people who are opposed to the Termination of Pregnancy service. To release the information requested could in

my view expose GPs, their staff and their patients attending GP Practices to being targeted for protest by activists as well as a general interruption to operation of the GP Practice service. There is also potential that any such protests may impact on those patients who are attending GP Practices for non-Termination of Pregnancy services which could potentially adversely affect their attendance / engagement at the practice.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

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**Davinia O'Donnell, General Manager, National Women and Infants Health Programme**