



An Oifig Náisiúnta don Chuimsiú Sóisialta  
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20<sup>th</sup> November, 2025

Deputy McGreehan  
Dáil Eireann  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2.

**Re: 60689/25**

**To ask the Minister for Health if her Department will establish dedicated sexual violence and sexual health clinics accessible to international protection applicants, given concerns raised by women regarding past experiences of sexual violence and the absence of accessible therapeutic supports**

**Re: 60690/25**

**To ask the Minister for Health if she will consider the establishment of satellite counselling and therapeutic services within or adjacent to IPAS centres, to ensure persons with experiences of sexual violence or coercive control can access trauma-informed care without prohibitive barriers such as transport or childcare**

Dear Deputy McGreehan,

The Health Service Executive have been requested to reply directly to your above Parliamentary Questions which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Regardless of gender, sexuality, nationality or residence status people in Ireland can avail for a network of HSE funded Sexual Assault Treatment Units (SATUs). These are available free of charge to anyone aged 14 years and over who needs them. The SATUs provide a range of options for care according to a person's preference, including forensic examination, responsive healthcare and storage of evidence. Further details on location of services and options for care are available at [hse.ie/satu](https://hse.ie/satu).

All people living in Ireland have access to free public sexual health services, which are available across Ireland. These are listed here with contact details: <https://www.sexualwellbeing.ie/sexual-health/hse-sti-services-in-ireland.html>. Public sexual health services do not require a GP referral and a translator/interpreter can be requested when booking an appointment. The HSE also offer a free home testing service for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) [www.sexualwellbeing.ie/hometesting](https://www.sexualwellbeing.ie/hometesting). Individuals with limited English are encouraged to attend the face-to-face public services.

Community HIV testing is also available through some community NGOs, many of whom do outreach to IPAS centres. These are listed here [www.sexualwellbeing.ie/hiv](https://www.sexualwellbeing.ie/hiv). Services and organisations working



in IPAS centres can access free condoms and lubricant through the [HSE national condom distribution service \(NCDS\)](#).

Information is available on STIs, HIV and genital conditions in a variety of languages [www.sexualwellbeing.ie](http://www.sexualwellbeing.ie). These resources can also be ordered by services and organisations through [www.healthpromotion.ie](http://www.healthpromotion.ie) and made available to individuals in IPAS settings.

The HSE Sexual Health Programme, in conjunction with the regional Health Promotion and Improvement departments, offer the one-day, '*Sexual Health Services Signposting Training- for professionals working with International Protection Applicants*'. This raises awareness of: a range of issues including DSGBV and Female Genital Mutilation; the available sexual health services including those related to contraception and STI testing and treatment; and the availability of information resources and the translation services in a range of languages. It emphasises the need for a culturally competent approach and encourages participants to avail of the relevant e-learning on HSELand and AkiDwa's cultural competency training. There is a [companion resource booklet](#) for participants which is regularly updated.

Specialist services (e.g. counselling and therapeutic services) are funded through Cuan, the DSGBV agency under the remit of the Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration. Services that offer support to victims and survivors of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence in Ireland are available on this DSGBV service directory <https://www2.hse.ie/services/domestic-sexual-gender-based-violence/>.

In relation to satellite counselling and therapeutic services, residents can access mental health supports that are provided by or supported by the HSE including;

- Information, self-help supports and online resources
- Supports and services provided in the community by voluntary organisations
- Specialist mental health services that can be accessed through their GP (general doctor)

For further details, please visit

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/primarycare/socialinclusion/intercultural-health/mental-health-sup...>

In accordance with the IPAS accommodation standards, it is the responsibility of accommodation/service providers to ensure transport is available for residents of IPAS accommodation centres in particular circumstances. There is an IPAS protocol in place to enable residents to access assistance to attend medical appointments.

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

Yours sincerely,



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Joseph Doyle  
National Lead, Social Inclusion