



National Director, Quality Assurance and Verification

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Deputy Stephen Donnelly TD,
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

By Email: Stephen.Donnelly@oireachtas.ie

30th December 2019

Re: PQ Ref 52251/19 - To ask the Minister for Health the percentage of serious reportable events being notified within 24 hours to a designated officer.

Dear Deputy Donnelly,

You will be aware that SREs are serious incidents resulting in harm or death which have been defined by the HSE. Some SRE categories are considered to be largely preventable patient safety incidents that should not occur if the available preventative measures have been implemented by the healthcare provider's concerned, e.g. wrong site surgery. Others are serious incidents that may not have been preventable or predictable but which need to be examined to determine if in these areas, safety was compromised or can be improved e.g. patient falls.

The HSE currently monitors and reports on compliance with '*serious incidents being notified within 24 hours of occurrence to the senior accountable officer*', as set out in the National Service Plan 2019. Serious Incidents are described in the Incident Management Framework [IMF, 2018] as a rating of major or extreme as per the HSE's Risk Impact Table and defined as Category 1. This rating is auto generated with the incident is reported on the National Incident Management System (NIMS), hosted by the State Claims Agency. All Serious Reportable Events categorised as major or extreme are included in this cohort.

I can confirm for the period January to November 2019, **36%** of serious incidents were notified within 24 hours of occurrence to the senior accountable officer.

It should be noted that the fact that notification to the Senior Accountable Officer has not been identified on NIMS within 24 hours, does not necessarily mean that notification has not happened at the service level.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick Lynch".

Mr. Patrick Lynch
National Director