

27th February 2019

Deputy Louise O'Reilly
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street
Dublin 2.

PQ 4711/19 To ask the Minister for Health the number of assaults recorded against psychiatric
Question: nurses in each of the years 2011 to 2018, in tabular form; and if he will make a
statement on the matter. -Louise O'Reilly

Dear Deputy O'Reilly

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 table below outlines the number of reported assaults against all staff, not only psychiatric nurses for the years 2011 to 2018. The National Incident Management System does not allow us to give a breakdown by grade/discipline.

2011	6
2012	6
2013	7
2014	4
2015	83
2016	968
2017	1721
2018	1481

The figures provided with regard to assaults on staff and in particular the significant increase in reporting from 2016-2018, should not be interpreted solely as an actual increase in the occurrence of such incidents. The figures relate to reported incidents and the increase in reporting may be associated with the emergence of quality and safety governance structures/arrangements and associated improvement in reporting practices. The transition from the use of other recording systems to the use of



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath 20.
T 01 6207304 R: Sinead.reynolds@hse.ie

Mental Health Service
St Loman's Hospital, Palmerstown Dublin 20
Tel: 01-6207304 Email: Sinead.reynolds@hse.ie

the NIMS has been incremental, and the use of NIMS has been organisationally mandated in recent years. With increased compliance in terms of reporting we will over time be able to compare longitudinal data in a more meaningful way.

It is crucial that in interpreting the number of incidents reported that we are mindful that 92.96% of such incidents are recorded to have resulted in either Minor/Negligible harm, albeit that strategies should be implemented to reduce the risk of all assaults on staff.

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

Yours sincerely,

Dr Sinead Reynolds
General Manager Mental Health Services