

19th July 2019

Deputy Pat Buckley,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street
Dublin 2.

PQ: 33749/19

To ask the Minister for Health the number of self-harm presentations by children under 18 years of age in each of the years 2016 to 2018, by presenting hospital -Pat Buckley

Dear Deputy Buckley,

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 HSE does not collect the information in the format as requested. The Hospital Inpatient Enquiry (HIPE) System is a health information system designed to collect medical and administrative data regarding discharges from acute public hospitals. HIPE only includes information on admitted patients, inpatient and day cases; it does not collect information on Emergency Department or Outpatient activity.

I attach for your information the National Self Harm Registry Report for 2017 which gives some information on the number of presentations by young persons to the Emergency Department.

Where a person under 18 years presents to the Emergency Department following self-harm it is important that person receives a compassionate empathic response from the ED staff. They should receive a biopsychosocial assessment from a suitable qualified mental health professional prior to discharge from hospital. In children under 16 years of age it is recommended they should be admitted overnight to a paediatric ward. The paediatric team should ensure the child receives a biopsychosocial assessment prior to discharge from hospital. This recommendation follows international best practice such as NICE recommendations in the UK.



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sinead Reynolds'.

Dr Sinead Reynolds
General Manager Mental Health Services

(Encl.)