



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

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9<sup>th</sup> November 2020,  
Deputy Michael McNamara,  
Dail Eireann,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ: 32721/20**

**To ask the Minister for Health if staff of the National Self Harm Registry will be classified as essential workers in this lockdown, which they were not during the last, resulting in the inability to collect and collate data to date pertaining to the last lockdown; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy McNamara,

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 National Self-Harm Registry Ireland (NSHRI), operated by the National Suicide Research Foundation (NSRF), collects data related to self-harm presentations to hospital emergency departments in the Republic of Ireland. Inclusion criteria include presentations as a result of self-harm but not deaths by suicide. Data are collected by trained data registration officers (DROs).

On 22 October 2020, the country moved to Level 5 of the national *Resilience and Recovery 2020-2021: Plan for Living with COVID-19* for a period of six weeks. Government guidelines for Level 5 restrictions state that physical attendance at workplaces is permitted for those who provide services where such services can only be provided in person and cannot be delivered remotely. Essential services at Level 5 include “*the provision of scientific research and development services*”. Due to the nature of their work and the importance of collecting these data, DROs have been advised that they may continue to go to hospitals to obtain data on self-harm during this time.

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