



Rose Conway-Walsh TD

Dáil Éireann

Kildare Street

Dublin 2

rose.conwaywalsh@oireachtas.ie

16th September 2020

PQ Ref 23334/20

To ask the Minister for Health if there has been consideration of releasing suicide figures on a county basis in order for NGOs and charities working in this field to target support and respond to geographic trends; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy,

The HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention (NOSP) has been requested to respond to your question above.

It should be noted that in Ireland, the decision as to whether someone has died by suicide, is a legal determination made by Coroners, not a medical decision by doctors or the HSE.

Following the Coronial investigation, inquest and registration processes, the Central Statistics Office (CSO) then publishes national mortality data, including data on deaths by suicide. All CSO data on suicide deaths is publicly available on their website www.cso.ie.

Annual data from the CSO is delivered in three stages;

1. Provided firstly by year of registration – “provisional”
2. Revised later, by year of occurrence – “official”
3. Revised later again, to include “late registrations”.

The most recent data available is provisional data for 2019. This can be viewed here:

<https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/ep/p-vsyst/vitalstatisticsyearlysummary2019/>. Table 16 in particular provides the county information you have requested.

Aside from accessing the CSO site, you can also find more in our accompanying briefing document, [Briefing CSO Data \(2nd June 2020\)](#). This includes three-year moving average rates of suicide, by county of residence of deceased (2004-2019). It is more useful to use these three-year averages (rather than numbers of suicide by county) when making comparisons or observing trends.

I trust this information is useful for you. Please do revert should you require anything further.

Yours sincerely,



Mr John Meehan

HSE Assistant National Director, Mental Health Strategy and Planning
Head of National Office for Suicide Prevention (NOSP)

Attachment: [NOSP Briefing CSO Data \(02 06 20\).pdf](#)