



29th September 2020

Deputy Eoin Ó Broin TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ /20/26570**

*“To ask the Minister for Health the number of patient discharges from hospitals in which patients were discharged to no fixed address including bed and breakfasts, hostels, hotels and so on to date in 2020, in tabular form”*

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 Hospital Inpatient Enquiry (HIPE) system records in patient discharges only and does not record attendances at Emergency Departments.

In relation to the potential data available, HIPE does not record homelessness/no fixed abode as a Discharge Destination. The only information recorded on HIPE relating to homelessness/no fixed abode is within the code set for the Area of Residence provided by the patient at the time of admission, i.e. the place where the person states they normally reside (their home address).

Therefore, I regret to advise that the information you have requested is unavailable.

In terms of what is available; patients whom provided “No Fixed Abode” as their area of residence, the latest validated data available is for 2019 and this was previously provided to you in PQ 5795/20. HIPE system records for 2020 will not be validated until 2021.

| Discharge Year  | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|-----------------|------|------|------|
| Discharge Count | 343  | 377  | 429  |

I hope this response is helpful.

Robert Morton  
Assistant National Director  
Acute Operations