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Deputy Neasa Hourigan
Dáil Éireann,
Kildare Street,
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Re: PQ 23316/21 To ask the Minister for Health when the Health Protection Surveillance Centre plans to resume its reporting on underlying conditions in confirmed cases of Covid-19.

Dear Deputy Hourigan

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question which has been referred by the Minister for Health to the Health Service Executive for direct response.

Information on underlying conditions is principally captured by the COVID-19 Contact Management Programme (CMP) during Positive Patient Assessment (PPA) interviews and is subsequently imported onto the Health Protection Surveillance Centre's (HPSC) Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting System (CIDR). For patients admitted to ICU or COVID-19 cases who have died there are additional sources of information on underlying conditions. The Intensive Care Society of Ireland (ICSI) and the HSE Critical Care Programme support the provision of data, including underlying conditions, by the hospitals on all critical care patients with COVID-19 to HPSC. HPSC also receives a daily list of deaths from all causes, which were registered in Ireland the previous day, from the General Register Office (GRO). Underlying conditions listed on the death certificate are entered into CIDR.

For patients not admitted to ICU or cases who did not die, the PPA interview is the principal source of information on underlying conditions. A data quality review was underway prior to resuming reporting. However, since the cyberattack on 14th May all regular reporting by the HPSC is temporarily suspended until further notice.

If you require any further information or clarification please do contact us.

Yours sincerely,

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