



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Rannóg na nGnóthaí Parlaiminteacha
Oifig an Phríomhoifigigh Feidhmiúcháin
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22th November 2021

Deputy Catherine Murphy
Dáil Éireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 54440/21

Question: To ask the Minister for Health the detail of the current backlog of unreviewed safeguarding concerns in respect of the abuse of adults by CHO region.

Dear Deputy Murphy,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for response.

Concerns of abuse of residents in disability or older person's service are managed under the HSE Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons Policy, 2014 which is the framework for undertaking screening, assessment and drawing up of safeguarding plans. Safeguarding preliminary screenings are submitted by designated officers within these residential settings to the HSE safeguarding and Protection teams in the relevant Community Health Care Area for oversight. Where there is an outcome of reasonable grounds or further information required, each service would also submit a safeguarding plan which is then also oversight reviewed by the HSE Safeguarding Team.

The safeguarding plans are considered on a triage priority basis and currently one Safeguarding Team in CHO 7 has a backlog of safeguarding plans for review. The number of safeguarding preliminary screenings submitted by disability and older persons services for review by a HSE safeguarding and protection team which have yet to be examined in CHO 7 is 499. The date on which the oldest of such cases was referred for review is the 06/03/2020.

The service is currently working to address the backlog which developed in CHO7 and additional resource has been allocated to assist with this. In addition, current concerns are being processed in a timely manner with work on the backlog happening simultaneously.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Hanly', written in a cursive style.

Tim Hanly

General Manager

National Safeguarding Office