



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Ceannasáí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin, Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath 20.

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Deputy Brid Smith.
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2.

25th March 2022

PQ Number: 7507/22

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the action that was taken by his Department or the relevant official that was notified in the case of each of the protected disclosures concerning the CAMHS services in each CHO region concerned since the Protected Disclosures Act 2014 was passed by year and each CHO region in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter - Bríd Smith

Dear Deputy Smith,

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 Protected Disclosures Act 2014 was enacted on 15 July 2014. The purpose of the Act is to provide a statutory framework within which workers can raise concerns and disclose information regarding potential wrongdoing that has come to their attention in the course of their work in the knowledge that they can avail of significant employment and other protections if they are penalised by their employer or suffer any detriment for doing so. It is important to note that in order to enjoy the protections of the Act, disclosures must be made in accordance with the provisions set out in the Act. The Act provides for a stepped disclosure process with the objective that disclosure should be, wherever possible, made at workplace level to the most appropriate person.

A fundamental protection in the Act is protection of identity and a failure to comply with this is actionable by the discloser if that person suffers any loss by reason of the failure to comply.

In compliance with the legislation and guidelines and also to promote trust and reassurance to disclosers the information provided by the HSE on protected disclosures is that which is published in the statutory Protected Disclosure Annual Reports. Further information on the HSE Annual Reports can be found here

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/qavd/protected-disclosures/>

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries.



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Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Ryan".

Jim Ryan
Assistant National Director - Head of Operations
National Mental Health Services