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10/03/2022

Deputy Fergus O'Dowd,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 9102/22 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of social work investigations, reviews, NIRP reports, independent reviews or other investigative processes that have been completed and or underway and or scheduled within the HSE Older Persons Services Department since 2015 by type of concern and process of review or investigation used; the details relating to HSE funded services in which the processes were initiated following reports and or concerns related to physical, sexual, emotional, financial or institutional abuse or neglect of adult residents; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**-Fergus O'Dowd**

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Dear Deputy O'Dowd,

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.

The HSE launched the National Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse, National Policy and Procedures in December 2014. This policy has stated principles on the human rights of vulnerable adults and sets out definitions of abuse as well as standardized procedures for screening and devising protection plans for vulnerable adults at risk of abuse. The current procedures encompass older persons and persons with disabilities within HSE and HSE funded services.

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 National Safeguarding Office, established in 2015, is responsible for reporting on the number of reported safeguarding concerns within the Social Care Division. The first full year of data is in 2016 therefore the following tables, as reported on the annual reports, represent the total number of cases reported by age category and abuse type alleged for 2016 to 2020 inclusive. It is expected that the 2021 data will be published in June 2022.

## Total No of Abuse Concerns Reported Over 65 Years 2016-2020

Year	No. of Concerns
2016	3029
2017	2804
2018	3218
2019	3337
2020	3412

## Total No of Abuse Categories Over 65 Years- 2016-2020

Abuse Type	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Physical	711	20%	798	20%	1012	25%	1046	26%	812	23%
Sexual	144	4%	194	5%	98	2%	122	3%	107	3%
Psychological	895	25%	1104	28%	1261	31%	1356	33%	1229	35%
Financial	688	19%	782	20%	811	20%	875	22%	651	19%
Neglect	618	17%	572	15%	555	13%	545	13%	508	15%
Discriminatory	46	1%	48	1%	9	0%	12	0%	10	0%
Institutional	45	1%	22	1%	58	1%	42	1%	36	1%
Self Neglect	440	12%	384	10%	332	8%	56	1%	127	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3587</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>3904</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>4136</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>4054</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>3480</b>	<b>100%</b>

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,




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Yvonne O'Neill,  
National Director,  
Community Operations

