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10/03/2022

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

PQ 9104/22 - To ask the Minister for Health if any complaints or concerns which were received by line management of the HSE from staff working in private nursing home sector since the outset of the Covid-19 pandemic in relation to neglect, institutional, emotional, physical, sexual or financial abuse of residents in those homes defining abuse as set out in the HSE's 2014 adult safeguarding policy; the number of said concerns that were subsequently referred to HIQA and or An Garda Síochána by the HSE broken down according to whom the concerns and complaints were reported to; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

-Fergus O'Dowd

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 National Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons at Risk of Abuse, National Policy procedures, 2014 encompasses older persons and persons with disabilities within HSE and HSE funded services. Concerns can arise within community living settings and within other settings such as private nursing home facilities. Advice, guidance and support is offered to such facilities on the response/ management of safeguarding concerns and any community referrals are responded to when submitted to HSE Safeguarding Teams.

The Data collected by the HSE currently encompasses HSE and HSE facilities that are under the remit of the HSE Safeguarding Policy. Such data on community referrals of persons over 65 years of age is included in reply to PQ 9102/22.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yvonne O'Neill', written over a horizontal line.

Yvonne O'Neill,
National Director,
Community Operations