



8 March 2022

Deputy Peadar Tóibín
Dáil Éireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

E: Peadar.Toibin@oireachtas.ie

PQ Number: 9327/22: To ask the Minister for Health the number of national independent review panel reports underway currently by CHO area and by the type of service under review; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ Number: 9328/22: To ask the Minister for Health the number of national independent review panels launched in each of the past ten years by CHO area and by the type of service reviewed; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Tóibín,

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

The NIRP was established in 2017 and became fully operational in 2018, it is managed and directed by an independent chairperson and consists of independent panel members who have been appointed through a public appointment process. A key criteria is that the individual will not have worked for the HSE or HSE funded agency or Tulsa in the previous three years.

The NIRP has been established to enable the HSE to undertake independent reviews when things go seriously wrong involving people within the community health and social care sector within HSE or HSE funded services. Although the NIRP is part of the HSE it is independent of all HSE operations at both national and community level.

Upon being commissioned by the HSE to complete an independent review the NIRP will examine circumstances related to people who use community health and social care services where there are major concerns about how the services involved managed the care of an individual or group of individuals. The NIRP will review cases where it is suspected that there are serious failings by the HSE and/or its funded organisations that have led to significant harm and/or have compromised the quality of life of the person/s concerned.

The aim of the NIRP review process is to promote learning from cases where there have been extreme concerns about the safety and wellbeing of individuals who use a community health and social care service within a HSE or HSE funded service.

	Year of Referral	Completed/Underway
Review 1	2017	Completed
Review 2	2018	Completed
Review 3	2019	Completed



Review 4	2020	Underway
Review 5	2020	Underway

CHO area and by the type of service under review

As per the NIRPs Operational Guidelines 2021, all reports produced by the NIRP will be pseudonymised with all identifying information removed. In this context the NIRP cannot identify the CHO area or the type of service that each review pertains to.

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

Yours sincerely,

Joanne Haffey

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