

9<sup>th</sup> August, 2022

***PQ 41190/22** - To ask the Minister for Health the number of assaults recorded against medical, nursing, midwifery and other health and social care professionals across HSE hospitals and community healthcare facilities to date for each month in 2021 and to date in 2022, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -David Cullinane*

Dear Mr Cullinane,

I refer to your PQ request 41190/22 which was forwarded to the HSE for response.

### **Background**

With regard to the above request for information, please see below the report on Assaults on HSE Staff.

To assist with understanding the report/data more fully, I feel it appropriate to firstly give a brief background to the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and to the data in the report. In 2015 the NIMS system was introduced by the SCA. This requires all incidents to be reported through a national centralised system and will ultimately improve the quality of the data. However, the HSE has long been proactive in encouraging staff to report all incidents and this is enshrined in the Corporate Safety Statement, Violence and Aggression policy and Incident Management Framework and Guidance.

Please note that the following conditions apply to the data:

- All physical, verbal and sexual assaults on staff that have been reported on NIMS are included
- Assaults include a problem/cause of: physical, verbal or sexual assault on staff in the HSE that occurred between 01/01/2021 and 21/07/2022.
- The report was run by “Date of Incident”, which is the date on which the incident occurred
- An incident can be a harmful Incident (Adverse Event), no harm incident, near miss, dangerous occurrence (reportable circumstance) or complaint.
- This report is correct as of 21/07/2022.

When considering the figures in the report it should be noted that staff are encouraged to report all “near misses” and incidents – even those that **do not** result in harm. Hence, the number of incident reports should not be considered as indicative of a level of harm. There may also be multiple reports relating to the same incident.

**Table 1. Incidents by category of person affected from 01/01/21 – 21/07/22**

Count of Record Number Category of Person, Affected	Years		Date												Grand Total					
	2021												2022							
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb		Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
Allied Health Professional	2	3	18	9	11	6	5	6	14	13	21	12	22	15	11	15	18	25	6	232
Ambulance/Service User Transport													1							1
Catering/Housekeeping	2	3	2	1	6	7	2	6	6	3	6		5	1	2	4		3		59
Dental	1											1						1		3
Locum															1					1
Medical	3	3	2	5	7	1	6	5	9	12	8	10	5	6	6	3	5	4		100
Nursing	206	253	275	244	267	263	246	227	253	227	200	239	218	257	271	212	248	253	61	4420
Other Staff	129	117	122	134	134	133	127	120	168	165	139	153	143	129	138	139	125	99	28	2442
Professional Grades		2	1									1	2	1	2					9
Professional Volunteer															1					1
Service User												1								1
Tech/Maintenance		1	2		2			3	1	1	3		1	5	9	5	2	2	1	38
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>421</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>7307</b>

**Comment**

Due to delays in reporting numbers are likely to change overtime, however the organisation continues to encourage the reporting of all incidents (regardless of the level of harm, if any).

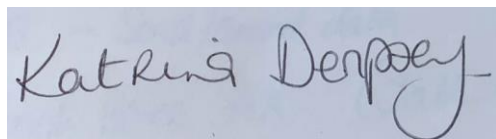
Ensuring the safety of employees and service users is a priority concern for the HSE. The HSE is committed to creating a safe environment within which to work or to be treated.

The organisation will continue to place an emphasis on the management of work related aggression and violence in 2022 to support the Organisation’s strategy and policy. Key focus areas are:

- National policy on the management of work related aggression and violence (policy review)
- Risk Assessment
- Training

I trust this will answer your request, however please do not hesitate to contact us should you require any further information.

Yours sincerely



Katrina Dempsey

Interim Head of the National Health and Safety Function