



Príomhoifigeach Faisnéise

rShláinte agus Teicneolaíocht
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26th May 2022

Mr. Peadar Tóibín TD
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

Re: PQ ref 25764/22

“To ask the Minister for Health if attention of the Director General of the HSE has been drawn to the hacking of computer systems from within the HSE; if such incidents have ever been brought to his attention; if he has had to authorise an independent investigation regarding the hacking of confidential private data within the HSE; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy Tóibín,

The standard process within the HSE is to make the CEO of the HSE aware of Cyber Security incidents including, but not limited to, hacking of computer systems (internal or external) and/or data breaches. In addition all such incidents follow standard data protection regulation/guidelines and best practice incident response. Independent investigations are authorised where deemed appropriate and proportional.

Data hacking is an illegal activity, the consequences of ransomware and data breaches can have very large consequences. The HSE has implemented security procedures based on advice from our external cyber security advisors to reduce the risk of external hacking while enabling internal staff share data across health services and geographic regions.

If you feel that the question has not been fully answered or you require any further clarity, please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Fran Thompson,
Chief Information Officer, eHealth, HSE.