



**Stiúthóra Náisiúnta
Acmhainní Daonna**
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhísí,
Sláinte Ospidéal Dr. Steevens',
Baile Átha Cliath 8, D08 W2A8.

**National Director
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David Cullinane T.D.

6th December, 2022

PQ 57796/22 *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 in **October 2022**; the number year to end October 2022; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -David Cullinane*

Dear Deputy,

I refer to your PQ request 57796/22 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 01/01/2022 and 31/10/2022.
- 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.
- Values between 1-5 have been redacted and are denoted by ~
- This report is correct as of 16/11/2022.

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 01/01/2022 – 31/10/2022

2022	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Grand Total
Category of Person, Affected											
Allied Health Professional	22	15	12	15	20	31	33	25	32	18	223
Ambulance/Service User Transport	~										~
Catering/Housekeeping	6	~	~	~		~	~	~		~	28
Dental						~			~		~
Locum			~								~
Medical	~	6	6	~	~	6	~	11	7	8	59
Nursing	230	260	272	218	271	334	295	274	300	189	2643
Other Staff	145	130	140	142	135	128	104	148	127	74	1273
Professional Grades	~	~	~							~	6
Professional Volunteer		~									~
Tech/Maintenance	~	~	9	~	~	~	~		~	8	36
Grand Total	413	419	446	387	433	505	436	462	470	302	4273

*Please note that this NIMS data may contain anomalies and is subject to further change following ongoing data analysis.

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 and 2023 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,

Marie O'Sullivan
National HR