



**Stiúirthóra 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 57797/22 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 for each month of 2019 and the total number; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -David Cullinane

Dear Deputy,

I refer to your recent Representation which was sent to the HSE for response.

Please see below the report on Assaults on HSE Staff.

Background

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 01/01/2019 and 31/12/2019.
- 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 01/01/2019 – 31/12/2019

2019	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Grand Total
Category of Person, Affected													
Allied Health Professional	6	8	11	13	10	14	18	7	14	10	11	6	128
Catering/Housekeeping	~	~	7	9	6	10	7	~	~	~	~	~	60
Dental	~				~	~		~		~			6
Locum										~			~
Medical	~	~	7	8	8	10	8	6	6	9	14	6	91
Nursing	318	282	362	369	396	344	347	355	330	416	356	296	4171
Other Staff	191	162	184	206	224	187	219	218	193	200	208	170	2362
Professional Grades			~	~	~	~		~		~			10
Tech/Maintenance		~	~	~			~		~				7
Grand Total	525	461	577	607	648	568	600	593	547	640	590	480	6836

**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 that this information is sufficient to meet the Deputy's needs.

Yours sincerely,

Marie O'Sullivan
National HR