



Oifig an Stiúrthóra Náisiúnta
Géarobríochtaí

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An Bóthar Míleata, Cill Mhaighneann, Baile
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Deputy Mark Ward
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

23rd January, 2023

PQ 1300/23 To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons who presented to emergency departments with self-harm and or intentional poisoning by CHO area in each of the years 2019 to 2022 and to date in 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Mark Ward

PQ 1302/23 To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons who arrived at emergency departments with suicidal thoughts in each of the years 2017 to 2022 and to date in 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Mark Ward

Dear Deputy Ward,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Please see attached record outlining data you requested, which was provided to me by the Healthcare Pricing Office (HPO), with a breakdown of the figures for the years requested. Please pay particular attention to the notes accompanying the data as it is likely that data contained in both tables may relate to the same discharge.

I am advised by the HPO that the HIPE scheme is a health information system designed to collect clinical and administrative data on discharges from, and deaths in, acute public hospitals in Ireland. HIPE discharges are clinically coded from charts in the hospitals; this includes translating medical terminology into alphanumeric code and using the entire chart to extract the conditions and procedures to create an adequate picture of the patient's health care encounter. A pseudo-anonymised version of this data is then sent to the HPO from each hospital each month where it is compiled at a national-level. At every part of this process, in the hospitals and in the HPO, the data is subject to extensive data quality checks.



Each month, data from the current month and any previous months during the year can be added to, or updated by, the hospital. The HIPE file is therefore provisional and subject to change until it closes in the following year, this facilitates the data being as complete and as accurate as possible when the file closes. Once the HIPE file is closed, changes can no longer be made to the data and it is at that stage that we start to use this data for reports and information requests.

HIPE is not an operational database; it is not updated nationally at the HPO on a real-time or daily basis and is not considered final until it is closed in the following year.

As the 2022 and 2023 file is an open file and continually added to the HPO cannot facilitate the request for 2022 and 2023 data at this time.

I trust this response is satisfactory.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nessa Lynch', written over a horizontal line. The signature is highly stylized and cursive.

Nessa Lynch
General Manager
Acute Operation