

17th June 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

I was asked to comment on a Parliamentary Question directed to the Minister for Health on Category 1 Adverse Events at the National Gender Service.

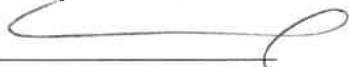
Category 1 Adverse Events include fatal outcomes, such as suicide. Suicide is more common in the trans population than in the cisgender population, and this increased risk of suicide persists during medical transition (i.e. while on hormone therapy or after gender affirming surgery).

There have been a number of deaths by suicide, as well as a number of high lethality suicide attempts, in people attending the National Gender Service over the years. The exact number is not clear, as the National Incident Management Systems have been evolving and different codes have been used over time for both the events themselves and the National Gender Service (which was previously contained within the category of Endocrinology at St Columcille's Hospital).

Implementation of the new National Incident Management Systems (NIMS) will facilitate more accurate capture of data over time. For now, we can confirm that Category 1 Adverse Events have happened, and are expected to continue to happen. However, the frequency of these events is expected to be minimised by application of the current Model of Care at the National Gender Service, which was formulated to maximise the benefits and minimise the risks associated with medical transition.

I hope the above has been clear and useful.

Yours Sincerely,



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