



Deputy Liam Quaide

Dáil Éireann, Leinster House

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By email liam.quaide@oireachtas.ie

6th August 2025

PQ Number 40960/25

To ask the Minister for Health the work being undertaken by her officials and-or the HSE to establish real-time suicide reporting in Ireland and associated infrastructure; if she will outline any collaboration with An Garda Síochána in relation to data sharing in this regard and a timeline for the finalisation of data-sharing; the timeline for the establishment of a national system of real-time suicide reporting in Ireland; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy,

The HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention (NOSP) has been requested to respond to your question above.

Background

Under Connecting for Life, Ireland's National Strategy to Reduce Suicide, An Garda Síochána has made commitments to work with the HSE NOSP and other stakeholders, on suicide prevention efforts and initiatives at local and national levels.

One outcome of this has been the development of a joint working protocol that enables regular sharing of data on deaths by suspected suicide from An Garda Síochána to the HSE. The protocol will also ensure that bereaved families receive timely and appropriate support.

This joint working protocol *does not* aim to establish a new statistical understanding, or an alternative dataset, of levels of suicide locally or nationally. Solely, its aims are to use very early stage, indicative information from An Garda Síochána to: establish a rapid and direct referral

pathway for those bereaved, to suicide bereavement supports/services, and; enable the HSE to better respond to incidents or emerging trends of (suspected) suicide, in real-time.

In Ireland, the Central Statistics Office (CSO) provides official mortality data including deaths by suicide. Death due to intentional self-harm is classified as an unnatural death and therefore, must be referred to the Coroner for investigation. This investigation can take a protracted length of time to complete for various reasons (such as getting medical reports, health and safety reports, engineer's report, and the involvement of the Director of Public Prosecutions etc.) and this delays the registration of such deaths.

Current status

The protocol is at final approval stage with An Garda Síochána. Both the HSE NOSP and Department of Health have recently written to An Garda Síochána in order to progress and finalise the agreement. A timeline for implementation of the protocol will be determined thereafter.

I trust this information is useful for you. Please do revert if you require anything further.

Yours sincerely,

Mr John Meehan

HSE Assistant National Director, Access and Integration, and Head of the National Office for Suicide Prevention (NOSP)

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