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8th April 2025

Mr Malcolm Byrne TD
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

Re: PQ ref 11638/25

"To ask the Minister for Health the number of reported cyberattacks in 2024 on her Department, on the HSE and HSE hospitals and facilities, or on section 38 or section 39 organisations or other bodies under the aegis of her Department, internally and to the National Cyber Security Centre; and if she will make a statement on the matter."

Dear Deputy Byrne,

Each month, the HSE's security systems collect thousands of security alerts that could potentially become cyberattacks. These systems are designed to block and stop threats before they require further investigation or reporting to the NCSC.

The HSE's approach involves early engagement with the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) during the incident lifecycle. Many alerts issued to the NCSC do not materialise into actual cyber-attacks, however each one must be fully investigated and validated.

Out of the numerous alerts, approximately 30 resulted in advanced investigations between the HSE and the NCSC. The HSE and voluntary hospitals have managed to rebuff all cyber attacks of their direct respective infrastructures. There were 2 attacks on sections 39s which led to a disruption of services that we are aware of. The HSE provided both technical and financial supports to the relative 39s to support them in the restoration of services with their clients.

Despite an increase in alerts, the technology used by the HSE and other healthcare organisations helps mitigate these risks effectively.

If you feel that the question has not been fully answered or you require any further clarity, please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

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Fran Thompson,
Chief Information Officer, Technology and Transformation, HSE.