



An Oifig Náisiúnta um Chumhdach

Ospidéal Naomh Iósaf

Sráid Mulgrave

Luimneach

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2/5/2025

Tom Brabazon, TD
Dáil Éireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2
E: tom.brabazon@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Brabazon,

Re: PQ ref 13656/25

To ask the Minister for Health if all HSE safeguarding teams in community healthcare organisations are now fully integrated into the six new HSE regions; if not, the issues holding up the process; and the additional skills and training planned for HSE safeguarding staff to deal with complex financial issues arising from safeguarding.

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question which has been referred by the Minister for Health to the Health Service Executive for direct response.

As part of the Slaintecare reforms there has been an overall programme of restructuring work ongoing within the HSE focused on the alignment of health services based on a delivery framework of Community Health Networks and Integrated Health Care Areas which operate within defined Health regions. Safeguarding and Protection Teams are aligned to and operate as part of this revised delivery framework. These teams undertake a variety of functions including the screening and assessment of community referrals as well as the oversight of safeguarding activity with Disability and Older Persons Services. The adult safeguarding work of HSE Safeguarding Teams to the public has continued uninterrupted during the programme of reform and realignment.



National Safeguarding Office

HSE Safeguarding and Protection Teams handle a variety of financial abuse referrals and notifications. These cases can involve assessment and safeguarding planning and working with the person who has been deemed at risk of financial abuse. As appropriate this work can involve liaison with a variety of other professionals and agencies. Safeguarding Teams collaborate as appropriate with colleagues such as the HSE Private Property Account Section and Nursing Homes Support Office on particular areas whilst also working with HSE legal services, An Garda Siochana, Banks and statutory agencies such as the Department of Social Protection on cases of theft and other forms of potential criminal activity.

Individual social work staff as members of Safeguarding Teams update their continuous professional development based in line management supervision, reflective practice, team meetings, etc. Safeguarding Teams and the National Safeguarding Office also look at wider education and learning areas for practice development which would include all forms of abuse including financial abuse. Education and training on all aspects of adult safeguarding work is important for social work continuous professional development and HSE is committed to exploring further areas of practice and skill development.

Should you require further details on these matters please contact me via the Office contact details enclosed

Yours Sincerely,

Tim Hanly

General Manager | National Safeguarding Office

Copy to HSE PAD at PQuestions@hse.ie