



20th April 2022

Mr David Cullinane, TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 18448/22

To ask the Minister for Health the number of assaults recorded against medical, nursing, midwifery and other health and social care professionals in Tallaght Hospital in 2021 and to date in 2022; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

Every effort is made by the Hospital to ensure the safety of our staff and patients. The Hospital is committed to providing a safe environment to both work in and receive treatment.

The Hospital has extensive supports in place for staff including policies and procedures, for example

- the Management of People Presenting with Behaviour that Challenge in the Adult Services TUH Policy 2020-2023 (PPC-H&S-POL-004). This policy is consistent with HSE Policy on Prevention and Management of Work-Related Aggression & Violence 2018
- 24hr security support with clear signage across the Hospital for a zero tolerance to violence and aggression towards staff / other patients
- Hospital and Departmental risk assessments are undertaken
- There is a clear reporting procedure in place with staff supported if they decide to press charges following an assault
- Emergency Department for medical assessment/treatment with Occupational Health follow if needed by the staff member following an incident
- Man down alarms in the Emergency Department
- Specific care plans for patient admitted with dementia.
- Reporting to HSA (>3 days absent from work) and follow up with line manager (Health and Safety).
- MAPA training, dementia support training and HSeLanD Violence & Aggression course
- Employee Assistance Programme
- Critical incident stress management programme

The total number of such incidents is 401 (312 in 2021 and 89 to date this year) for incidents covering violence, harassment and aggression. The breakdown of staff by category is as follows



Allied Health Professionals = 10
Catering / Housekeeping = 2
General Support = 50
Medical = 3
Nursing = 336

Please note that it is important to note that the figures quoted include incidents that did not result in harm, our staff are encouraged to report all 'near misses' and incidents even if they do not result in harm. There can also be multiple reports relating to the same incident.

MR JOHN KELLY
DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE