

12<sup>th</sup> February 2024

PQ 49742/23

Dear Mr Cullinane,

I refer to your PQ 49742/23 request which was forwarded to the HSE for response.

**PQ 49742/23** - *To ask the Minister for Health the number of assaults recorded against staff at HSE facilities for October for each year 2019 to 2023 to date, inclusive, in tabular form - David Cullinane Similar to PQ 35074/23*

## Background

With regard to the above request for information, please see below the report on Assaults on HSE staff.

To assist with understanding the report/data more fully, I feel it appropriate to firstly give a brief background to the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and to the data in the report. In 2015 the NIMS system was introduced by the SCA. This requires all incidents to be reported through a national centralised system and will ultimately improve the quality of the data. However, the HSE has long been proactive in encouraging staff to report all incidents and this is enshrined in the Corporate Safety Statement, Violence and Aggression policy and Incident Management Framework and Guidance.

Please note that the following conditions apply to the data:

- All physical, verbal and sexual assaults on staff that have been reported on NIMS are included
- Assaults include a problem/cause of: physical, verbal or sexual assault on staff in the HSE that occurred in October for each year 2019-2023, inclusive.
- The report was run by “Date of Incident”, which is the date on which the incident occurred
- An incident can be a harmful Incident (Adverse Event), no harm incident, near miss, dangerous occurrence (reportable circumstance) or complaint.
- Values between 1-5 have been redacted and are denoted by ~
- This report is correct as of 12/02/2024.
- Excludes: Voluntary Organisations.

When considering the figures in the report it should be noted that staff are encouraged to report all “near misses” and incidents – even those that **do not** result in harm. Hence, the number of incident reports should not be considered as indicative of a level of harm. There may also be multiple reports relating to the same incident.

**Table 1. Incidents by category of person, affected in October for each year 2019 – 2023, inclusive.**

Category of Person, Affected	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Grand Total
	Oct	Oct	Oct	Oct	Oct	
Allied Health Professional	10	12	13	24	24	83
Ambulance/Service User Transport	~		~	~	~	16
Catering/Housekeeping	~	~	~	7	7	24
Dental	~		~			~
Locum	~					~
Maintenance/Trades			~			~
Medical	9	7	12	11	8	47
Nursing	416	252	227	287	300	1482
Other Staff	201	138	166	124	191	820
Professional Grades	~			~	~	~
Tech/Maintenance			~	8	~	10
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>644</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>465</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>2491</b>

\*Please note that this NIMS data may contain anomalies and is subject to further change following ongoing data analysis.

#### **Comment**

Due to delays in reporting numbers are likely to change overtime, however the organisation continues to encourage the reporting of all incidents (regardless of the level of harm, if any).


Ensuring the safety of employees and service users is a priority concern for the HSE. The HSE is committed to creating a safe environment within which to work or to be treated.

The organisation will continue to place an emphasis on the management of work related aggression and violence to support the Organisation's strategy and policy. Key focus areas are:

- National policy on the management of work related aggression and violence (policy review)
- Risk Assessment
- Training

I trust this will answer your request, however please do not hesitate to contact us should you require any further information.

Yours sincerely



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**Katrina Dempsey**

**Head of the National Health and Safety Function**