



25th June 2024

Ms Catherine Connolly TD
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

Re: PQ ref 25547/24

“To ask the Minister for Health the number of cyberattacks that have been carried out on the HSE, or organisations contracted to provide services to the HSE that may have access to patients’ sensitive information, to date in 2024; the details of same; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy Connolly,

The threat of cyberattack is ever present and the threat landscape in which we operate continues to evolve. As part of our response to the cyberattack in May 2021 we have invested significantly in an ICT and Cyber programme focusing on improving the HSE’s ability to identify, protect, detect and respond to Cyber threats through our Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) function and the 24x7 security operations centre (SOC).

As part of our ongoing security monitoring there have been 100’s of Cyber threats identified (or attempts), but I can confirm that no incidents or cyberattacks which have resulted in data loss or data encryption within the HSE in 2024.

With regard to organisations contracted to provide services to the HSE, they too are subject to increasing cyber threats. In the event of a cyber attack on a third party our CISO function has a robust Cyber Incident playbook to manage such a scenario.

Organisations contracted to provide services to the HSE are legally obligated to disclose data breaches to the HSE; I can confirm there has been no access to patients’ sensitive information through organisations contracted to provide services to the HSE.



Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fran Thompson".

Fran Thompson,
Chief Information Officer, eHealth, HSE.