



Mr David Cullinane TD  
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1<sup>st</sup> of November, 2024

Re: **PQ ref 39658/24**

To ask the Minister for Health the number of assaults recorded against patients at HSE facilities for each quarter for each of the years 2019 to 2024, inclusive, in tabular form.

Dear Deputy Cullinane

Thank you for your representation. Incident reporting is impacted by a number of factors and is not intended as a data collection point but primarily aids as a system that helps incident management and learning from such events. There are data limitations which include potential duplication of incidents, variance in reporting and variance in data validation. The majority of incidents had no harm or low level harm reported. In some instances the reported event has been recorded as an 'allegation' and it is not confirmed if the event occurred. The definition of Incidents in the HSE is described in the **Incident Management Framework 2020** (page 41), which can be accessed on our website [here](#)

Count of Record Number	Column Labels					Grand Total
	Qtr1	Qtr2	Qtr3	Qtr4		
Row Labels						
2019	906	1089	1007	854	3856	
2020	1040	712	705	663	3120	
2021	615	716	673	577	2581	
2022	559	686	553	620	2418	
2023	703	733	813	646	2895	
2024	649	679	309		1637	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>4472</b>	<b>4615</b>	<b>4060</b>	<b>3360</b>	<b>16507</b>	

Data source is the National Incident Management System (NIMs) extracted 8.10.2024, it does not include near miss incidents and includes statutory services only

I trust this clarifies the matter but please do contact me if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely

Lorraine Schwanberg  
Assistant National Director  
Quality and Patient Safety Incident Management