

1st November, 2017

Deputy James Browne.D,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street
Dublin 2.

PQ 43508/17: To ask the Minister for Health the number of mental health staff attacked by patients at HSE facilities in each of the years 2010 to 2016 and to date in 2017; and if he will make a statement on the matter.
- James Browne.

Dear Deputy Browne

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

In order to answer your question we have run a report from the National Incident Management System (NIMS). NIMS is operated by the State Claims Agency not the HSE and there are some limitations that I would like to draw your attention to regards the data provided;

The way in which service locations are listed in NIMS means it is not possible to run a report for specific types of Mental Health Services, inpatient community and so on. For this reason and for completeness all Mental Health Services which the State Claims Agency have provided the HSE Mental Division access to in NIMS were included in the report.

NIMS is in its roll out phase and the marked increase in reporting is indicative of the initial launch and continued roll out of the NIMS reporting system. Accurate retrospective trend analysis on reporting will only be possible once the roll out of NIMS has been completed.

The report was run within the following parameters and it should be noted that any reports run with different parameters on the same data will yield different results. The parameters (using the language from NIMS) were;

- Incident category: violence, harassment and aggression
- Incident problem / cause: physical assault
- Person affected: staff
- Severities: minor, moderate and extreme
- Date of incident: 2010 – 2017

There were 330 reports of physical assault on staff within these parameters from 2010 – 2017, one of which was reported to have been extreme in severity. The break down year on year is below.

2017	149
2016	145
2015	11
2014	3
2013	7
2012	6
2011	6
2010	3

The HSE places the safety of our staff among our top priorities. In 2018 my office will be working with all Community Health Organisation and the National Forensic Mental Health Service to further improve the relational security within Mental Health Services reducing levels of violence and aggression.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely,



JP Nolan
Head of Quality Service User Safety