C1196. Hon Stephen Dawson to the Minister for Disability Services

I refer to the rates of serious incidents on page 119 of the 2015/16 DSC Annual Report and I ask:

1. The variation from target was 61%, what is the reason for massive increase?
2. What is the breakdown of serious incidents by definition?
3. Of the incidents how many occurred in group homes managed by private providers?
4. Of the incidents how many occurred in group homes managed by DSC staff?
5. Of the incidents how many were found to have occurred due to a lack of training by staff?

Answer

(1) During 2015-16 the Commission used awareness-raising strategies to promote comprehensive reporting by all service-provider organisations. The increase represented in the annual report is a result of increased awareness by organisations of their need to report serious incidents.

While the overall number of serious incident reports received was higher than the previous period, the increase was in the reporting of non-critical incidents, including illnesses, accidents and actions by a person with disability. There was not a corresponding increase in the reporting of abuse or neglect.

(2-4) There were 67 valid serious incident reports across the disability sector:

- Twenty-four (24) reported incidents of actions instigated by a person with a disability, of which eight (8) reports were from the Disability Services Commission (DSC) and sixteen (16) were submitted by Disability Sector Organisations (DSOs)
- Thirteen (13) reported incidents of injury of which seven (7) reports were submitted by DSC and six (6) were submitted by DSOs
- Ten (10) reported incidents of serious illnesses, all of which were submitted by DSOs
- Eight (8) reported incidents of deaths all of which were submitted by DSOs
- Five (5) reported incidents of suspected abuse without verification, of which two (2) reports were submitted by DSC and three (3) were submitted by DSOs
• Four (4) reported verified incidents of physical abuse, all of which were submitted by DSOs
• Three (3) reported incidents of restrictive practices, of which one (1) report was submitted by DSC and two (2) were submitted by DSOs
• Two (2) reported incidents of suspected neglect without verification, both of which were submitted by DSOs
• One (1) reported incident of suspected financial abuse without verification, submitted by DSC

The number of incidents is 70 as three reports contained multiple incident types.

In summary, during 2015-16 there were four (4) verified reports of incidents involving the ill-treatment of people with disability in accommodation services.

(5) Of the four (4) verified reports of incidents involving the ill-treatment of people with disability in accommodation services, there were no incidents found to have occurred due to a lack of training by staff.