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HSE admits major flaws in data collection:

The Health Service Executive has acknowledged that there are major flaws in the way it collates information about vulnerable children in care.

The HSE was responding to criticism about the amount of information it has given to an independent group set up to review the deaths of children in care and the rate at which that information is being provided.

Speaking to RTÉ News, HSE Assistant Director of Children and Family Services Phil Garland said there are 'deficits' and 'inconsistencies' in the service's systems.

Mr Garland also said reforms are being implemented to improve those systems.

The HSE was asked to gather details of all deaths of children of non-natural causes while in State care over the past decade.

This information is then to be handed over to an independent review group that was set up two months ago by the Minister for Children Barry Andrews.

However, the group has yet to receive a single file from the HSE.

Minister Andrews, who will meet Mr Garland and other health officials on Thursday, has expressed concern at the delay.

Phil Garland said he shares the Minister's frustration and hopes to have all the necessary information by the end of next month.