



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Oifig an Phríomhoifigigh Airgeadais  
Feidhmeannacht na  
Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Seomra 125, Ospidéal  
Dr. Steevens  
BÁC 8

Office of the Chief Financial Officer  
Health Service Executive  
Room 125, Dr Steevens  
Hospital  
Dublin 8

12<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Deputy Louise O'Reilly TD,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**Re PQ 18050 20:** *To ask the Minister for Health the estimated cost of ensuring all maternity leave is covered across the HSE.*

Dear Deputy O'Reilly,

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. Your PQ above has been referred to me for response.

From available data it is estimated that an average of approximately 5,170 WTE's will be on maternity leave during 2020 (HSE Statutory & Voluntary). It is not possible however to give an accurate figure for the cost of ensuring all maternity leave is covered across the HSE as the data required to produce such a figure is not available. Details of the type of cover being arranged in each case is not held centrally. Maternity leave can be covered in a number of ways which may include agency cover where there is a service need, in particular for frontline staff.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me at [sarah.anderson1@hse.ie](mailto:sarah.anderson1@hse.ie) or tel: 087 9423319.

Yours sincerely

*Sarah Anderson*

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