



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta, Acmhainní Daonna
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Ospidéal Dr. Steevens'
Baile Átha Cliath 8

Office of the National Director of Human Resources
Health Service Executive
Dr. Steevens' Hospital
Dublin 8
Tel: 01 6352319 Email: nationalhr@hse.ie

Ged Nash, T.D.

17th November, 2020

PQ33365/20 To ask the Minister for Health his views on the fact that the agency contract signed between the HSE and a company (details supplied) in relation to the terms and conditions of level 2 Covid-19 contact tracers and the individual contracts and terms and conditions of employment makes it clear that those that have been hired to undertake this critical job do not enjoy the same sick pay terms as level 1 tracers that are in the direct employment of the HSE; his further views on whether the lack of full sick pay cover could potentially see such agency workers placing themselves at risk and in a compromised position in the workplace; if he and the HSE will address this deficit; and if he will make a statement on the matter.
-Ged Nash

Dear Deputy,

I refer to your recent parliamentary questions above which was sent to the HSE for reply.

Due to the upsurge in COVID 19 and the need for temporarily re-assigned HSE staff to return to their service roles, the HSE is tasked with the immediate recruitment of Contact Tracers. In order to fill these roles as soon as possible, the HSE is working in partnership with a 3rd party supplier (CPL Healthcare) to expedite recruitment for Contact Tracer. Using a 3rd party supplier was a key enabler of responsive COVID-19 related recruitment so as to immediately increase recruitment capacity to fill COVID-19 related roles.

Contract Tracers are currently being recruited as CPL agency employees. Contact Tracers employed by CPL will have the standard terms and conditions of CPL employment in relation to sick leave. For work acquired COVID 19 sickness, appointees are entitled to the relevant social welfare payment; in addition they will be paid their contracted salary minus the social welfare benefit, as is also the practice for any HSE employees. CPL employed Level 1 Contact Tracers and CPL employed Level 2 Contact Tracers receive the same terms and conditions of employment with regards to sick leave.

Any HSE employees temporarily re-assigned into work as Contact Tracers retain the terms and conditions of their contract of employment in relation to sick leave.

Contact Tracing Centres are managed in line with public health advice and social distancing measures so as to reduce any transmission of COVID-19 in the workplace. The employment arrangement of agency employed Contact Tracers will be reviewed at later date by Contact Tracing.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marie O'Sullivan".

Marie O'Sullivan
National HR