



**6<sup>th</sup> May, 2021**

Ms. Catherine Connolly T.D.  
Dáil Eireann  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**Re: PQ 21987/21**

PQ 21987/21– “To ask the Minister for Health if an outbreak of Covid-19 in the workplace is a criterion that is applied in respect of applications by healthcare workers to avail of the temporary accommodation scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy,

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

The temporary accommodation scheme for healthcare workers during COVID-19 was set up in April 2020 to provide support for healthcare workers in various situations and does not specifically include a criterion related to an outbreak of COVID-19 in the workplace. The following criteria apply to healthcare workers:

- Healthcare Workers whose family members are self-isolating and who are therefore not able to return home
- Healthcare Workers who are living with vulnerable persons
- Healthcare Workers who require emergency accommodation due to urgent response or mitigating factors
- Healthcare Workers who require accommodation in order to facilitate rosters
- Healthcare Workers, other than couples or co-habiting family members who normally live together, sharing accommodation who are at an increased risk of contracting and/or spreading Covid-19
- Healthcare Workers returning from overseas who are contracted to work and require temporary accommodation (following the required period of self-isolation)
- Healthcare workers who reside in congregated domestic living arrangements e.g. hostels, direct provision centres etc.
- Other needs as agreed at local level.

The temporary accommodation scheme for staff will continue to operate as long as we are in a COVID-19 environment and there is demand from healthcare workers who continue to meet the necessary eligibility criteria. It is communicated on a regular basis that the scheme will continue to operate as long as needed and that it is temporary in nature.



Healthcare Workers are advised of the benefits for themselves, other staff and service users in opting for the temporary accommodation service, which includes the interruption of transmitting the disease and preventing onward spread in long-term residential settings and the community.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frances McNamara', written over a light blue horizontal line.

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**Frances McNamara**  
**Assistant National Director,**  
**Office of the Chief Operations Officer**