



Oifig an Stiúrthóra 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

Réada Cronin T.D.

28th October, 2021

PQ49971/21 To ask the Minister for Health the number of public healthcare workers in County Kildare at all levels of the health service that are or have been on sick leave or extended leave due to work conditions and stress or injury in each of the past five years and to date in 2021, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Réada Cronin

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Dear Deputy,

I refer to your recent parliamentary questions above which was sent to the HSE for reply. The response below refers to both questions.

Under the HSE Managing Attendance Policies an employee is not obliged to disclose the reason for the illness and there is no central data repository on the cause of absence. Information in relation to absenteeism is only collected in respect of the overall level of absenteeism and the reasons for the absence on sick leave are not recorded. Staff who are absent from work due to sickness or ill health for periods in excess of 2 days are required to submit medical certificates to their line manager for the duration of their absence. These certificates, which are confidential, are required to be dated, signed by the medical practitioner and they must state the expected duration of the absence and, where appropriate, the expected date of return. Doctors are not required to state the nature of the illness on the medical certificates. Therefore it is not possible to provide the Deputy with the information sought.

The HSE records absences based on HSE Strategic Workforce Planning publishes National Absence Report per month which includes an Absence Category titled COVID 19 Absence. The latest report can be accessed at: <https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/resources/our-workforce/workforce-reporting/absence-report-august-2021.pdf>

Individual absences are monitored and managed by local management in accordance with the Managing Attendance Policy and related policies. These policies are available on the HSE website at <http://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/Resources/managingattendance.pdf>. The HSEs Managing Attendance Policies apply to all staff.

Yours sincerely,

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

Marie O'Sullivan
National HR