



Oifig an Stiúrthóra Náisiúnta, Acmhainní Daonna

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhísí Sláinte
Ospidéal Dr. Steevens'
Baile Átha Cliath 8

Office of the National Director of Human Resources

Health Service Executive
Dr. Steevens' Hospital
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23rd September, 2021

Carol Nolan, T.D.

PQ41955/21 To ask the Minister for Health the measures he is taking to promote or facilitate remote working for staff in his Department or bodies under the aegis of his Department; the costs this has generated in terms of the provision of laptops, desktop computers or contributions to wi-fi costs or phone-related expenses; the number of staff who have applied for permission to work from home on a permanent or hybrid-model basis (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. - Carol Nolan

Dear Deputy,

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

Home working was introduced in March 2020 as a public health response to the Covid-19 pandemic. This sudden introduction of emergency home working led to an unprecedented and accelerated level of change in the way some public health sector employees work.

The Government intend to introduce legislation on the Blended Working Framework for Civil Service (which is at negotiation stage, and that once agreed, the HSE will develop policies based on this Framework (including an application process for post-Covid blended working patterns)).

In developing our own strategy and policy on future blended working arrangements the HSE will have regard to challenges that will need to be addressed. Any remote working arrangement granted will be subject to ongoing review by the employer. It is expected that our policy will include roles that are and/or are not suitable for blended working, which will reduce the number of applications that cannot be facilitated due to the requirements of the role.

The transition from 'enforced' home working to a more normalised blended working environment will be, in the first instance, dependent on public health advice.

A central register of costs is not collated.

Yours sincerely,

Marie O Sullivan
National HR



Seirbhís Sláinte
Níos Fearr
á Forbairt

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