



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
Dublin 8
Tel: 01 6352319 Email: nationalhr@hse.ie

Neasa Hourigan T.D.

21st September, 2021

PQ43375/21 To ask the Minister for Health his plans to ensure healthcare professionals are subject to clear policies and procedures in relation to encouraging breaks and providing spaces to rest in order to help avoid burnout in the workplace; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Neasa Hourigan

Dear Deputy,

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

Please find attached the link to HSE HR Circular 21/2021 on the WRC's ***Code of Practice for Employers and Employees on the Right to Disconnect***. The granting of rest breaks/periods to public health service employees is subject to the provisions of the Organisation of Working Time Act 1997 and this is outlined in Circular (see Appendix 1). As stated in the Circular the HSE will produce a Right to Disconnect Policy to reflect the provisions in the WRC Code of Practice and this work has commenced.

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/resources/hr-circulars/hr-circular-021-2021-code-of-practice-for-employers-and-employees-on-the-right-to-disconnect.html>

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marie O'Sullivan".

Marie O'Sullivan
National HR