



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

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David Cullinane T.D.

11th May, 2022

PQ 20301/22 To ask the Minister for Health the extent of long-Covid supports for HSE workers; the extent, length, rates of pay and variety of paid leave options; the options for secondment or transfer available to healthcare workers who have been injured by a Covid-19 infection and cannot return to their original employment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -David Cullinane

Dear Deputy,

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

The HSE has an established process for supporting HCWs to return to work following illness or injury – see the 'Rehabilitation of Employees Back to Work After Illness or Injury Policy & Procedure' - <https://healthservice.hse.ie/filelibrary/staff/rehabilitation-of-employees-back-to-work-after-illness-policy.pdf>.

This policy outlines the process for HCWs out of work, which includes HCWs with Long Covid. The employees are referred to the Occupational Health Service and are assessed in relation to fitness for work. Occupational Health Services make recommendations for reasonable accommodations where relevant.

The policy outlines the process for planning the employees return to work following long term absence. It also outlines the process for HCWs where the employee is unable to return to work in their substantive position. In this case it specifies 'options for suitable alternative duties, or alternative employment options will be fully explored'. This is dealt with on a case by case basis. These employees can also access psychological support via our Employee Assistance Programme, which is a free counselling service for HSE employees.

The question of establishing specific HCW pathways for Long Covid services is currently with the Long Covid Oversight Group.

Yours sincerely,

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

Marie O'Sullivan
National HR