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14th December 2022

Deputy Michael Lowry
Dail Eireann
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Email: Michael.Lowry@oireachtas.ie

Re: PQ/60435/22

To ask the Minister for Health if Section 39 healthcare employees who worked exclusively for a day service with residential day service users and onsite in Covid-19 exposed healthcare environments, will receive the €1,000 pandemic special recognition payment; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Lowry

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

In October the HSE awarded a tender to consultants Kosi to help in delivering the pandemic payment to non-HSE staff. The HSE, with support from Kosi, is engaged in a process to implement the payment of the bonus to workers in non-HSE and non-Section 38 organisations.

That cohort of workers includes those employed in private sector nursing homes, Section 39 (in receipt of State grant aid) long term care facilities for those with disabilities, agency workers in the HSE, and home help or home care assistants contracted to the HSE.

On November 1st communication was issued from the HSE to organisations of potentially eligible employees detailing how those bodies could apply for the payment for their workers. The HSE in turn, will make payments to employers who have returned their costed liability regarding eligible employees.

I trust this clarifies the situation but should you require any further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ethna McTeague", written over a horizontal line.

Ethna McTeague
General Manager, Disability Services
HSE Mid-West Community Healthcare