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Paul Murphy T.D.

5th January, 2023

PQ 62898/22 To ask the Minister for Health the reason that the payments for thousands of frontline workers (details supplied) which have been approved and all steps have been taken by staff to provide their details, are not being processed as a matter of urgency; the person or body that this personal information given by staff is provided to in order to process the payments; if it is a third party and or the HSE directly; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Paul Murphy

Details supplied: in relation to the thousands of frontline workers who are still waiting on their Covid recognition payment and the private nursing home staff who have been advised that it will likely be the new year before they receive this payment.

Dear Deputy,

I refer to your recent Representation which was sent to the HSE for response.

KOSI was engaged by the HSE as the Scheme Administrator on 20th October 2022.

The HSE has identified a list of potential employers of front-line workers who may be eligible for the Pandemic Special Recognition Payment (PSRP) in the following cohorts:

(1) Private Sector long-term residential care facilities for older people (nursing homes) and hospices, whether they be Private, Voluntary, Section 39;

(2) Eligible staff working on-site in Section 39 long-term residential care facilities for people with disabilities;

(3) Agency/contract staff who worked in clinical settings for the HSE or within Cohorts 1, 2 and 4 (e.g. an nurse, doctor, cleaner, paramedic);

(4) Health Care Support Assistants (also known as home help / home care / home support) contracted to the HSE.

KOSI has directly engaged with agencies meeting the criteria and the process for Employers to claim for current and former employees eligible for PSRP has been outlined.

Employers can be directed to the dedicated email address <u>psrp@kosicorp.com</u> and dedicated helpline 01 9601700 where members of the KOSI team will assist with any queries employers have in relation to current or past employees. It is important to note that KOSI only deal directly with employers with the exception of an employee whose employer is no longer trading and current employer not in scope.

The HSE is aware that there are eligible employees of companies which have since ceased trading and those employees are not currently employed by a company in scope here who could pass on payment to them. A separate process is required and is currently being developed to process payment to such eligible employees. The development of this process will be assisted by the learning and data gained under the existing on-going payment process.

I trust this clarifies and is of some assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Marie d' Sullwan

Marie O'Sullivan National HR