



**Stiúrtóra Náisiúnta  
Acmhainní Daonna**  
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhísí,  
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Duncan Smith T.D.

7<sup>th</sup> June , 2022

**PQ 36683/22** To ask the Minister for Health the reason that the HSE did not attend a hearing of the Workplace Relations Commission on the issue of special leave with pay on 27 June 2022; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Duncan Smith

Dear Deputy,

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

The Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER) issued its revised Guidance and FAQs for Public Service Employers during COVID-19 in relation to working arrangements and temporary assignments in May 2022. This national guidance applies to the HSE and the HSE does not have a mandate to depart from these cross-sectoral arrangements as set out in the guidance for all civil service and public sector employers.

The HSE had received an invitation to attend the WRC on 27 June 2022. However as the HSE cannot depart from the DEPR guidance it was not in a position to attend the WRC on Monday. The HSE had informed the WRC in advance.

From 1 July 2022, Special Leave with Pay (SLWP) will change for all cases. SLWP will apply for the duration of the stated self-isolation period only (whatever duration is in place at the time of the absence, currently 7 calendar days). From 1 July 2022 any periods of COVID-19 related illness which extend beyond the stated self-isolation period will be treated as ordinary sick leave. See circular <https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/resources/hr-circulars/hr-circular-18-2022-guidance-and-faqs-for-public-service-employers-during-covid-19.html>

Yours sincerely,

**Marie O'Sullivan**  
National HR