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Denis Naughton TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

14 July 2022

PQ 34444/22 To ask the Minister for Health if kitchen staff, including cooks will receive the pandemic bonus payment; the person or body responsible for the decision as to which staff receive the payment in each hospital setting; and if he will make a statement on the matter

Dear Deputy Naughton

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

Staff who meet the eligibility requirements of HSE HR Circular 12/2022 are entitled to payment of the pandemic Recognition Award. The eligibility criteria requires an employee to have worked in a Covid 19 exposed environment for a minimum of 4 weeks between 1/3/2020 and 30/6/2021 and to have been properly included in vaccination Cohorts 1 and 2 of the vaccination programme.

Local management will assess kitchen staff to determine if they meet the above criteria and those that do will receive the bonus payment in line with the Circular. It is not possible to give an overall assessment of catering staff roles due to the variance in the duties performed and their likely exposure to a Covid 19 environment.

For any staff member who feels that they should have received a recognition payment a separate appeals process has been put in place to address any grievances.

Yours sincerely,

John Delamere,
National Employee Relations