



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Príomhúil

Seomra 243, Ospidéal Dr Steevens,
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5th April 2022

Deputy Cian O'Callaghan
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 14139/22 - To ask the Minister for Health the estimated number of persons in Ireland with long-Covid; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

- Cian O'Callaghan

Dear Deputy O'Callaghan,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions (PQ 14139/22), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The exact number of people that are affected with Long COVID remains unknown, but published reports indicate that approximately 10-20% of COVID-19 patients experience lingering symptoms for weeks to months following COVID-19 infection. As part of this programme of work, the HSE is examining how it can model the possible numbers affected by Long COVID, noting that this will take time as more evidence emerges. An epidemiological survey is being planned in this regard and will be key to providing insight and understanding to the exact number of patients affected by Long COVID. This will also help to forecast future demand for services and will inform the direction of the Model of Care. A patient registry is currently being scoped out, which will be used to estimate the current need for Post-Acute and Long COVID services and attrition for these services over time.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours Sincerely,

TJ Dunford
Head of Operations - Primary Care
National Community Operations